

**Tara Merlo**

My name is Tara Merlo. I am a Social Worker with Montgomery County and a resident.

In my capacity as a resident, I urge you to reject Expedited Council Bill 34-20.

While the need for police reform has become glaringly apparent with the horrifying violence at the hands of police we've witnessed recently, it is a mistake to start to reform the way the police do their jobs by removing some of their collective bargaining rights.

This legislation moves too quickly. It does not give the newly created police reform task forces the time to do their job we're asking of them.

Accountability and collective bargaining can go hand-in-hand. It is dangerous to give too much power to one person. Adding community members to participate in the discussion of police discipline and accountability is a valuable added layer of oversight, but these changes should be brought to the table and discussed with Union input.

I know we can do better for our community. We can reform the police while also upholding collective bargaining rights.

I urge you to reject Expedited Council Bill 34-20.