

12/24/20

Louise Melchizedek

SRO Testimony

Good afternoon and thank you. My name is Louise Melchizedek and I live in Potomac, Maryland. I support the removal of SROs from schools. I had seen the SRO at my school before, she was always there just standing and watching my friends and I, but I never thought much of it. However, in one day all that changed. It was a hot day over the summer as we all gathered in front of the neighboring school, cabin john middle school, sitting in the silence of grief. As we all shuffled outside to the trunk of our cars six feet away from each other, preparing to start our eight minutes of silence in honor of George Floyd. When the SRO from my high school, Winston Churchill, was joined by 4 other cop cars. the officers proceeded to get out of their cars, walked closer and closer to us, then they stopped. And just watched us, hands crossed or on their belt ready to pull something out, when a dad walked over and asked them if we were breaking any COVID guidelines or if this was permitted, and they said everything was alright, but they didn't move an inch. They just watched us. Nothing was wrong, no noise was made, but there were ten cops surrounding us. The SRO program was created to enhance school safety also to monitor and prevent gang or suspicious activity. We were kids, adults, even teachers from my school, mourning the loss of lives taken at the hands of law enforcement. In return the SRO from my school decided to intimidate us and scare us since she couldn't prove we were doing anything wrong. When we return to school I must face my SRO, knowing that not only does she see me as a threat, but she will treat and use measures to treat me like one, even when I am not. I don't see any safety in that.