

Good evening Councilmen and Councilwomen,

My name is Kamala Foster, and I have a son who attended a Montgomery County High School a few years ago. He is an African American/Pacific Islander student. Another student alleged an incident occurred. Instead of the Principal and Administrators addressing the issue in the school house, it was immediately referred to the SRO, a Caucasian female. She obtained information from the Caucasian student involved and NEVER spoke with my son. She filed a police report recommending charges. One day during a meeting I had with an Administrator at Churchill High School, the SRO interrupted our meeting to inform me of her police report. I left the school house and spoke with my Attorney regarding the alleged charges. My son spoke with his Pastor/Mentor at that

time who was a retired Howard County Principal. Later I spoke separately with the Pastor and he informed me that in his high school, this incident would not have escalated to the SRO involvement or recommendation of charges. He advised me how to proceed with the matter. The issue was never pursued the States Attorney office as there was no evidence that the incident actually occurred. The SRO closed the police report. The Principal and Administrator corroborated with the SRO report inspite of the fact there were no witnesses or camera footage that anything had occurred. They corroborated with the SRO eventhough the dates were incorrect and the report flawed. If I didn't have the resources as a Physician to advocate for my son, he would've been railroaded into having a police record and charges for an incident that a retired Principal admitted didn't warrant SRO involvement and

should have been handled by the Principal and Administrators. The statistics of the number of minority students referrals that are made to SROs in Montgomery County is tragic. Minority students lives are being destroyed, before they are given an opportunity to graduate from High School, pursue College or an employment. This needs to end and end now!! The social injustices in our communities are rising outside of the school house and should not begin at schools.

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." MLK Jr,

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly." MLK Jr

Respectfully submitted,

Kamala A. Foster M.D.