

**Montgomery County Council**  
**Public Hearing on Bill 17-21 - Community Informed Police Training**  
**Testimony of Dr. Andrae Brown, professor of psychology, Montgomery College**  
**Tuesday, June 22, 2021**

Good afternoon, Members of the Montgomery County Council,  
and thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

My name is Dr. Andrae Brown and I am a professor of psychology  
at Montgomery College. I am here today to testify in support of the  
Community Informed Police Training, Bill 17-21

Over the past few years, the Montgomery College community has  
engaged in a deeper reflection on what it truly means to be the college  
of this diverse community. Montgomery College truly reflects its  
community with diversity of thought and perspectives as well as  
ethnicity, race, gender, and socioeconomic status. Because our  
institution is deeply rooted in the county, MC faculty and staff took  
pride in developing a plan to help further expand and deepen our  
community connections. We were pleased to be able to develop  
resources for the Montgomery County Police Department—training

and education to address some of the most pressing issues impacting America, including systemic racism, police violence, and the suppression of poor, Black, Brown, and marginalized people. We knew that this work could help *all* members of our community.

With this program, together, we can shift the texture and fabric of Montgomery County for generations. MC has about 600 students preparing for law enforcement and criminal justice careers with either with an associate's degree or plans to transfer and earn a bachelor's degree. About 3/4 of the students who graduate from MC stay in the county. We are a college of the community, right here in the community.

With this partnership, the College will extend the training of police recruits and officers, giving them access to education beyond the walls of the department. We will be able to share best practices, evaluate, and revise what a strong community-based police force looks

like while considering all of the perspectives in this community, strengthening accountability.

My mother once told me, “You got all that book sense; you better do something with it!” Implementing this partnership and training will allow us all to use our community’s collective “book sense” to create a transformational, stronger, and even better Montgomery County.