

(SHOW PHOTO OF MY DAUGHTER)

INTRODUCTION

- My daughter is a brilliant Black MCPS high school student.
- She is no longer able to learn inside her school building because she is afraid.
- We recently decided that she will finish this school year learning virtually at home - separated from classmates and teachers, and forfeiting the advanced instruction opportunities she deserves.

BACKGROUND

The “straw” that broke our backs was the latest reported incident of sexual assault at her school.

It was the latest in a string of incidents that began when my daughter was the only witness who came forward to report a BB gun incident during the first month of school. Since then, more incidents and police presence district-wide have stoked anxiety and left many questions unanswered about how our children are being kept safe and made to feel safe at school.

RATIONALE AND SUPPORTING DATA

Here are three numbers that I hope will compel you to invest in four available preventive school safety measures.

1. **87:** This school year, there have been 87 serious incidents documented in my daughter’s high school alone, including:
 - 9 drug incidents; and
 - 5 sexual incidents
2. **400:** The ratio of students to security staff in our high schools is routinely as high as 1 guard to 400 students - too high to be considered safe.
3. **And, 50,000:** Over 50,000 MCPS high school students have required school ID cards - cards used in lunch lines, but not for school entry.

BUDGET REQUEST/”ASK”

I am requesting the following four investments in high schools - where most serious incidents occur:

1. **#1 SECURITY STAFF:** Hire staff to achieve a ratio of 1:150 in all high schools by next year.
2. **#2 ID SCANNING TECHNOLOGY:** Invest in ID scanners at all high school entrances and exits.

3. **#3 CAMERAS & MONITORING:** Invest in complete camera coverage indoors and outdoors at all high schools, and establish dedicated camera monitoring stations - instead of laptops with limited camera displays.
4. **#4 ESTABLISH A HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL SAFETY** that reviews and addresses serious and non-serious incident data across MCPS monthly.

CLOSING

Please take action to prioritize major safety and security investments NOW, ...

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- ... so that this brilliant Black girl, and ALL of our children can be and feel safe in the schools that are their homes away from home.

Thank you.

Valarie Eiland Davis, JD, MBA

- Parent, MCPS High School
- Safety Committee Member, MCPS High School
- MCPS Graduate of Kemp Mill ES, E. Brooke Lee JHS, Kennedy HS
- Member of seven recovery workgroups for MCPS 2019 to date
- MCPS AASAAG
- MCPS D-SIIT Project Team
- MCPS District Assessment Committee
- MCPS Charter School Review Committee
- MCPS Interview Panelist
- Former NAACP Parents' Council Representative, Pine Crest and Montgomery Knolls Elementary Schools
- Community Health Worker
- Certified Youth Mental Health First Aider
- Founder, [ElevateHER Inc.](#) and [Blossom Inc.](#) 501c3 tax-exempt non-profit organizations
- Founder, CONTACT Pros LLC
- Social Action Committee Tri-Chair, Potomac Valley Alumnae Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
- Member, The People's Community Baptist Church