

Another year has passed and the crime in downtown Silver Spring grows, as does the crime in overall Montgomery County for the third year in a row as compared with national statistics of falling crime. So again, there is another hearing in which the residents of both the community and the county are asked to provide testimony to support the Council to do its primary duty of providing public safety. Such an incremental and experiential approach toward implementing a strategy might be appropriate for solving other public issues, but to address crime it appears to be a strategy of avoidance and weak wills.

Historically Montgomery County has been considered as one of the best places to live in the United States. Do you really want this to be part of your legacy under your guidance and changes in legislation, it loses that status?

My concern has grown beyond addressing the dreadful crime problem, to now fearing that we simply do not have the appropriate governance to solve many of the even more complex problems local governments face. I recommend that at this point if the Council still cannot pass legislation that solves the problem for the long-term and makes common sense, please seek the counsel of your colleagues in the surrounding jurisdictions who appear to have responded appropriately to the seriousness of the issue. Otherwise, in the interim, as you legislatively inch your way toward addressing this issue, assaults, murder, shootings, carjackings, and residents' sleepless nights accompanied by high anxiety will continue to occur. Besides having a duty to provide safety for the general public, somewhere here you have a moral imperative to do the right thing.

PS. 8 hours ago 3/4/24 3:30am more shooting at the Metro area in DSS.