



April 9, 2024

Councilmember Andrew Friedson  
Council President  
Montgomery County Council  
Stella Werner Council Office Building  
100 Maryland Ave.  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Council President Friedson,

Last Fall, as you know, due to County police department staffing shortages, the County Police/MCPD made the decision to stop taking calls for service in Gaithersburg and Rockville, both of which have their own police departments. Since that time, our two municipalities have been working with the County to bring about funding reimbursement for the services that the County would have provided but is now on us to provide. And, with appreciation to all of you, we've made progress.

However, this testimony is a continuation of the conversation. We have two ASKS.

**The first ask** is for an increase in the budgeted amount of next year's payment for police services.

While the proposed payment to Gaithersburg for police services in this FY25 budget is more than what was paid in the FY24 payment, it is LESS on a 'per officer' basis by more than \$18,000 per officer.

In order to bring us on par with the FY24 formula, which I would argue is deficient to begin with - we'll talk about that in a minute - the County would need to increase this line item by about \$346,900.

**The second ask** is to share and discuss the County's reimbursement formula with us. Our staff has repeatedly asked for more information and transparency on this formula, but to no avail.

We do know a couple things about the formula.

1. It's based on the notion that the County could police the whole Gaithersburg jurisdiction with 19 personnel, which is not at all realistic. (To put this in perspective, as of July 1st our Gaithersburg Police Department will have 68 sworn officers).

City of Gaithersburg • 31 South Summit Avenue, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877-2038  
301-258-6300 • FAX 301-948-6149 • cityhall@gaitthersburgmd.gov • gaitthersburgmd.gov

MAYOR  
Jud Ashman

COUNCIL MEMBERS  
Neil Harris  
Lisa Henderson  
Yamil Hernández  
Jim McNulty  
Robert Wu

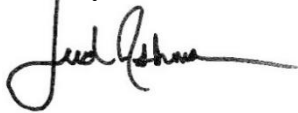
CITY MANAGER  
Tanisha R. Briley

2. It's supposed to track County costs for police personnel, not only salary and benefits, but equipment, and vehicles. Is the cost per officer at the County level *going down* this year? Of course not! So why would the cost-per-officer reimbursement for the police services the municipalities are now providing go down?

Without a more transparent explanation, municipalities like Gaithersburg and Rockville are unable to replicate the data to plan our respective budgets. And we are put at a disadvantage as we advocate for tax fairness for our residents, who are also County residents and taxpayers. We should have a clear and complete account of how these figures were determined.

In the short run, we ask that you increase the municipal reimbursement line item. Over the longer term, let's put all the cards on the table, share and discuss the formula, and find the most fair and equitable way forward. You guys are valued partners, and we appreciate the tough balancing act you need to do to serve our County. We stand ready to help.

Thank you!



Jud Ashman, Mayor  
City of Gaithersburg

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