



Montgomery County Commission on Juvenile Justice

March 22, 2021

Dear Council President Tom Hucker:

At its March 16, 2021 meeting, the Montgomery County Commission on Juvenile Justice (CJJ) voted to support County Council Bill 46-20, if amended as proposed by Councilmember Nancy Navarro as suggested in her March 3, 2021, memorandum. As you know, the CJJ is a 34-member commission comprised of 23 public representatives and 11 agency representatives, and among its charges, it studies and submits recommendations on legislation concerning juvenile affairs, studies and makes recommendations on those segments of the County budget that affect juvenile justice programs, promotes understanding and knowledge in the community regarding juvenile needs, and independently evaluates County-funded juvenile justice programs and services.

The majority of CJJ members believe the proposed model to remove School Resource Officers (SRO) from placement inside school buildings and instead have them operate as part of community cluster teams, comprised of police officers, mental health professionals, and positive youth development staff, would best address the issues raised by the current SRO program.

The Commission understands and appreciates that this is a dynamic conversation and looks forward to following any updates in this conversation, so we continue to make recommendations as appropriate.

Sincerely,

Chris Jennison, Chair
Commission on Juvenile Justice

CC; Council Persons; Albornoz, Friedson, Glass, Jawanda, Katz, Navarro, Rice and Riemer.