



**Marc Elrich**  
County Executive



**Maxwell C. Uy**  
Sheriff

**Office of the Sheriff**  
**Domestic Violence Coordinating Council**  
**Thursday, July 10, 2025**  
**5:00 PM – 7:00 PM**

*Mission: To reduce the incidence of domestic violence and create a safe community for families to live free of abuse.*

**Minutes**

**Present:** Tom Manion, Chair (Montgomery County Office of the Sheriff); Amy Palumbo (DVS Legal Services Director); Arth Babbar (DVCC-Student Member); Debbie Feinstein (Montgomery County Office of the State's Attorney); Captain Jeffery Bunge (Montgomery County Police); The Honorable Sidney Katz (Montgomery County Council Member); Rita Montoya (Board of Education); Lavontte Chatmon (Community Member; Dorne Hill (Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services); Rendell Jones (Community Member); Maura Lynch (Community Member); Michelle Maxberry (Community Member); Ben Stevenson (Director of Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation); Sydelle Saltibus-St. Jules (Community Member); Ashley Noy, Staff (Montgomery County Office of the Sheriff).

**Absent:** Dr. Jessica Volz, Vice Chair (Adventist HealthCare Shady Grove Medical Center); The Honorable Michael Glynn (District Court Montgomery County); The Honorable Karla Smita (Circuit Court Montgomery County); Jodi Finkelstein (Commission for Women); LaDonna King (Commission for Women).

**Guests:** Sgt. Kevin Baxter (Montgomery County Police Department Domestic Violence Unit); Amanda Katz (Guest); Lisa Mandel-Trupp (Chief of Staff for Marilyn Balcombe); Jennifer Prillman (Guest); Sharon Ledner (Chief of Staff Sidney Katz).

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

**II. Guidelines for the Virtual Meeting**

Tom Manion reviewed the guidelines for the virtual meeting participation. He asked everyone to mute their microphones when they are not speaking. He asked the participants to use the chat function or the raise hand function if they would like to speak.

**III. Approval of March Minutes**

The May 8, 2025, DVCC meeting minutes were reviewed. Amy Palumbo motioned to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Dorne Hill.

#### IV. Announcements

- Dorne Hill announced that as of July 1<sup>st</sup> the Betty Ann Krahne Center (BAK) is being managed under the Jewish Social Service Agency (JSSA). The BAK is the only emergency shelter in Montgomery County for women of domestic violence and their children. JSSA is working on changes and upgrades to the center to make it a better living space for survivors and their families.
- Tom Manion announced the two new members on the DVCC, Rita Montoya from the Board of Education and LaDonna King from the Commission for Women.
- Tom Manion announced that this is the last meeting that Arth Babbar, the DVCC Student Member, will be attending as he starts college in the Fall.
- Tom Manion announced that earlier this year, the Family Justice Center partnered with Trauma Services for the Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) grant, and funding was received.

#### V. Guest Speaker: *Montgomery County Police Department Special Victims Investigation Division Captain Jeffery Bunge*

- Captain Jeffery Bunge oversees the Domestic Violence and Elder Abuse Unit for the Montgomery County Police Department.
- The Domestic Violence unit investigates Intimate Partner Violence (IPV).
- Captain Bunge shared statistics showing that every minute, 32 individuals experience IPV: one in two women and two in five men report experiencing IPV within their relationships.
- Captain Bunge explained the stigma that comes with male victims, making it difficult to obtain accurate data. Many times, male victims do not seek services or call police due to fear of being perceived as “weak”.
- Captain Bunge provided the DVCC with statistics, specifically of cases in Montgomery County. Some of the information given was provided by the [2024 Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team Annual Report](#).
- In 2023, 25,000 Protective Order hearings were held across the state of Maryland, 3,000 of those cases being in Montgomery County.
- From 2017 to 2024, the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team (DVFRT) reviewed sixteen cases occurring from 2008 to 2023. Within the review, there were a total of thirteen homicides, three attempted homicides, and six homicides in which the offender also committed suicide.
- Between 2024 and 2025, the Domestic Violence Unit investigated around 400 cases. This number only includes the cases that the detective will follow up on, such as cases where there are reports of strangulation, significant physical injury, etc.
- The Department currently has two vacancies, and the detectives remain very busy.

## **VI. Committee Reports**

### **A. Legislative and Policy Planning Committee – Maura Lynch, Chair**

- Maura reports that the Legislative and Policy Planning Committee is working on off-season projects. The committee is currently working on vexatious litigation and the issue of the petition for protection.
- The Committee is currently at a stopping point with the vexatious litigation, as they are trying to identify who these individuals are.

### **B. Victim Services Committee update – Tom Manion, Chair**

- Tom reports that the Victim Services Committee has been focusing on litigation abuse. The Committee has decided that once a solution is identified, they will be more instrumental in 'rolling it out'. Such as helping with communication, trainings, sending templates, etc. In the meantime, the Committee will take a "backseat" with this issue.
- The Committee is also currently working on Hope Cards. This program exists in some counties in Virginia and Florida. Hope Cards are a condensed Protective Order, which is still considered an official legal document. Tom is working on setting up a meeting with the Montgomery County Police Department and the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office to discuss this idea. This would most likely be a Family Justice Center pilot program.

### **C. Education and Outreach Committee – Debbie Feinstein, Chair**

- Debbie reports that the Education and Outreach Committee continues to reach out to doctors' offices and hospitals with trainings and outreach materials.
- The Committee is finalizing the Teen Dating Violence awareness cards, which will be distributed during the Expect Respect presentations to teens.
- Debbie reports that the Coaching Boys into Men and Athletes as Leaders initiative has collaborated with the Montgomery County Recreation Centers-Soccer for Change Teams to complete the programs with the players.
- The Committee has also been working on a campaign for Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October.

### **D. Offender Program and Policy Committee – Ben Stevenson, Chair**

- Ben reports that the Offender Program and Policy Committee last met on April 9<sup>th</sup> and talked about a pilot program Trauma Service was starting for youth prevention.
- The Committee is currently working on the following initiatives:
  - Increasing abuser intervention programs.
  - Reviewing the Montgomery County Criminal Justice statistics, Ben's team and analysts have been working on pulling numbers from their crimes database.
  - Working with Juveniles, recently, this population in incarceration has doubled.

## **VII. Adjournment**

Tom Manion adjourned the meeting at 6:30 pm.

**The next DVCC meeting will be on September 11, 2025, in- person at the Montgomery County Family Justice Center, from 5 pm to 7 pm.**



**Domestic Violence Coordinating Council**