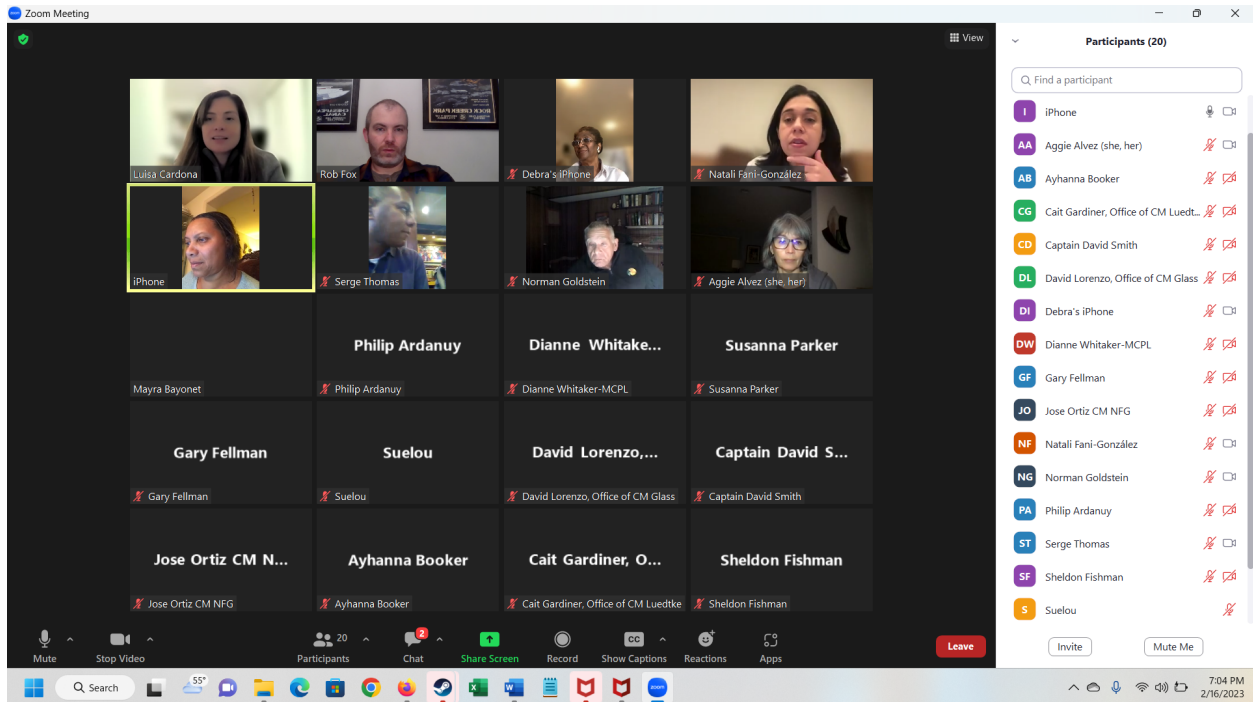


7:00 p.m.  
 Call to Order & Welcome  
 Meeting Protocols  
 Introduction  
 Arquilla Ridgell Chair  
 Objective: Welcome  
 Review of protocols for online meeting  
 Guest introduction



7:05 p.m.  
 Agenda  
 Minutes  
 Arquilla Ridgell Chair  
 Objective:  
 Acceptance of agenda and January minutes

7:10 p.m.  
 Mid County Directors Report Luisa Cardona  
 MCRSO Director  
 Objective: Update on the Mid County Regional Area

Virtual Fentanyl forum in Spanish for the community, to talk with parents most at the Montgomery county Facebook page, including how to administer Narcan, hope for folks to share it to the community. Spanish and catholic health center in Glenmont will be closing, 650 patients go there, trying to transfer them to a different provider rather than have to find someplace on their own.

7:15 p.m.

Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee Report  
Rob Fox WUDAC Liaison  
Objective: Updates

Council Member updates  
Mayra from Dave Albornoz – think Natali will give the update we need

7:20 p.m.

County Council Presentation Natali Fani-González  
Montgomery County Councilmember - District 6

Objective: Presentation by CM  
on goals/priorities for the region

and year moving. Opportunity for Mid-County to ask questions

Wheaton arts and cultural center – the committee has been advocating for this space which has been designated by the state, the executive was able to find a good location with the Montgomery housing partnership. The money has been proposed in the CIP, and the county council is going to deliver on this and try very hard to convince her colleagues that this is a good investment and that Wheaton really needs. Virtual meeting on 3/7 about the location and what's inside the project, a lot of questions that have not been decided. Going to get the details on the time and the registration link for the virtual meeting tomorrow and share it with Luisa for folks to show up and give their input. It is within the Wheaton urban district area, and also within the A&E designated area of Wheaton. It has the deeply affordable housing component, it's a great location with a great partner.

Doing a transportation infrastructure forum next week, Wed 2/22 at 6:30 at the Wheaton library, DOT, SHA, and planning department, taking a look at district 6, making sure Wheaton is walkable, bikeable, and roll. Wes Moore is coming to visit soon. From chatting with Captain David Smith, on the fentanyl crisis of children dying from an overdose in our communities. Having an event at Northwood high school on Saturday 2/25 at 9:30, Spanish speaking professional providing resources.

Economic development – as chair of economic development for county council: pushing with department of permitting services to streamline permitting and getting bad experiences with DPS. If we know of a business having a bad experience with DPS please let her know.

Housing – we had a wonderful groundbreaking for deeply affordable housing project on Randolph road. That was reflected in the master plan, and it will uplift community members making \$30-40k a year. Rent stabilization, many members of our communities are being hit with 15-30% rent increases out of the blue. We're going to have something moving on that soon, and that will be showing up in the news. That may be coming in the beginning of March. We'll get legislation introduced, do the budget, and then have work sessions on these pieces of legislation.

Serge Thomas – I work at the oak chapel united methodist churches food hub. What are your view on the food hub, it represents your area and we'd like to invite you out to the hub.

Natali – I would love to come out. You'll see things happening in Glenmont soon for development and housing improvement. We want to see people uplifted but not displaced, which is why we have the rent stabilization bill. The town hall on transportation next week, we have been canvassing businesses door to door and getting their concerns, hearing from them on DPS and public safety concerns. The other day at 10pm a guy took the cash register from the restaurant and ran away. There will be increases in public safety for businesses after 9pm to provide other support.

Capt. Smith – I agree with everything you're saying and say thank you for all of your support.

Susanna – support the idea of rent stabilization, that has historically been deeply unpopular with CoC. How can we help?

Natali – looking to get 6 votes to get it out of the county council.

08:05 p.m.

Public Safety Review – Mid-County

Captain David M Smith Commander – 4th District

Objective: Answer MCCAB public safety questions

Commander of the Wheaton district, started about the same time as Natali, and taking time to get used to the role. 20<sup>th</sup> year as a MoCo police department. Prior role was director of the personnel division. Have some exciting news on that front to share. A couple of the more policy related questions might be a bit out of his purview.

What are the top priorities for MoCo this year: the opioid and fentanyl crisis is an ongoing issue. Have ongoing tragedies involving our youth. Overdoses overall are down but involving youth is up. When we have an overdose we have a special investigations division. Those detectives specialize in drug enforcement. They will provide resources to that victim and identify the source to stop that problem. The other element of the overdose problem is educational, educating adults on the significance of the problem. Poke trailer will be going around, showing people the scale of the problem for overdose, and how people can identify the problem. With gun violence and privately manufactured firearms, a significant portion of firearms are these ghost guns, which is an area of concern in getting those off the street. Have numerous proactive teams on that work. Auto thefts and thefts from autos are up, carjackings are up. Pedestrian fatalities on GA ave are an ongoing area of concern, which requires a multifaceted approach, with some enforcement and education for the motoring public. In addition, community outreach and engagement. Make sure they establish partnerships and relationships with our community.

In the 4<sup>th</sup> district, want to give a set of goals that we're looking for for this year. 1. Problem oriented policing. Take data on what they're seeing and try to identify our problem areas. One area they've identified is auto theft in the aspen hill area. Taken a number of steps to align resources. It'll be educating the public on making sure their vehicles are safe. 2. Officer safety and recruitment. We have attrition issues in the department, and like many departments we're experiencing a high amount of resignations and have a high number of people eligible for retirement. We want to replenish that force. Also, our leadership development to develop our junior officers into leadership positions.

Question – are we competitive with neighboring jurisdictions?

Capt Smith - Yes, I believe we are, and we're going to offer a \$20k sign on bonus for new officers. Last year we had a salary bump for officers. Agencies are competing for the same group of applicants. When one agency makes an improvement other agencies are going to do the same. The needs aren't just here in MoCo but this is being experienced across the nation.

Ayhanna Booker – One of your focus includes officer safety, is that a new focus or issue or a consistent need?

Capt Smith – that’s a consistent need to make sure our officers are at their best, mentally and physically

Phil Ardanuy – staffing isn’t going away soon, what do you think about something similar to the ROTC program for the police but with high school/college students? That might bear fruit.

Capt Smith – we do actually and I’ll defer responding to that in part for later, but we do have programs related to that.

Serge Thomas – thank you Capt smith for your time. In light of Minneapolis with George Floyd and other similar cases, will you recommend that officers be culturally sensitive to the areas they patrol? We need effective policing but also police who aren’t looked up as an occupying force in the areas that they patrol?

Capt Smith – Cultural competency is very important. That’s why community engagement is so important, along with recruiting a diverse force within the community. We do a lot of training on bias, on understanding cultural competency as well, and we have in service training as well. That training isn’t static, it’s something they’re exposed to throughout their career.

Rob Fox - Warrior policing training?

Capt Smith – we embrace the 21<sup>st</sup> century police principles, which isn’t a warrior mindset but a guardian mindset. The reality of police work and training is that they’re exposed to some of the worst situations imaginable and that requires training for how to deal with those situations and do those dangerous jobs while using the least amount of force to accomplish their goals and their mission. That goes into their training and processes and it goes into everything they do. They actually host a number of different agencies to come to their department and their training academy. They’re always looking at how to improve.

Debra – the dilemma an officer has to face of what an officer is facing as a threat, and is the chance for the public to experience that still available?

Capt Smith – it is, and when people go through those situations, the time the decisions have to be made in makes it a good training tool and a tool to show others as well.

Arquilla – do you travel to different states to recruit?

Capt Smith – we do, we recruit from other states, colleges in state and elsewhere, finding applicants wherever they may be.

Capt Smith – crime statistics. At the County level, going back to 2018, for reported crimes vs person, 3615, that entails assaults, robberies. For crimes against property, that’s 21629. Crimes against property 2021 – 25072.

Wheaton district 2018 - 501 persons, 2022 – 449; property – 2018 – 1494; 2022 - 1673

Crime is a difficult problem to understand and the root causes of it. Hopefully coming in on the tail end of covid-19 the impacts will probably be things for people to understand for decades to come. Mental health factors, ghost guns has increased. You can print a gun from a 3-d printer, that didn’t use to exist. You also have socioeconomic conditions that impact these things, we have to address problems holistically. Crime prevention and crime deterrence are things we always want to take a look at.

Community engagement officers will always work these things. Take a walkthrough of the property to help property managers know if their location is secure. When we respond to burglary events we do a home survey to help victims make their location safer.

Closure rates for police departments – the FBI maintains some uniform crime data and take data from departments around the country. MoCo does a really good job, closure rate has been above national averages for a long time. Our homicide division was at 100% as of October last year, and closed a tragic murder.

What is the turnover rate and employee morale? – our attrition rate and resignation rate is up, we're working hard to replenish that. Morale is a challenging position, and has an impact on morale. Staffing challenges worsens that as people are required to take overtime and require different deployment strategies as well. Chief Jones in 2021 had a similar question on morale and it's an ongoing problem. Things that help contribute to morale are an engaged community. Community members will stop by the station with pizza or thank officers. Those little things mean so much to our officers. For internships or junior ROTC programs, we have a police explorers program for middle school and high school students. They get uniforms, get to participate in a variety of activities in the department. We want to continue and in college we have a paid cadet position and are working on a partnership with Montgomery college. We have programs for applicants in the hiring process. We require people who haven't applied to prepare and demonstrate themselves. When they complete their background check we hire them early and have them serving as a paid intern until their academy start date. It's a valuable experience for them before the academy. We also have a decentralized recruiter and mentor program, and will pair applicants up.

Debra – did you talk about something like the ring camera security stuff and can you work with those?

Capt Smith – Yes, it's very easy to share that data, and it's easy to share information across platforms, such as Nextdoor. We can also push messages out on those platforms as well. We want to make sure that every platform we can engage the community with is a place we're at.

Natali Fani-Gonzalez – there's an item in the operating budget to request cameras to be placed in apartment buildings. There was a case in aspen hill where people broke into 20 cars, and the community requested having cameras around the building to identify people doing those things.

Norman – what's the ratio of men to women in the police force

Capt Smith– if you give me a few moments I can answer that. Another question was how we're allocating resources to different regions. We're doing workload analysis, and data's important, good data drives good decisions. We have computer access that answers a lot of questions. That's something the department is actively engaged in. In Wheaton we're the busiest district in MoCo, they're very densely populated. We have higher staffing and calls to Wheaton/SS district. There've been calls to opening up a 7<sup>th</sup> district in the department. The SS district has the highest rate of calls in the county, so we're looking where we'd put a location. We have crime analysis on a weekly and monthly basis so we use that. We have some teams in the 4<sup>th</sup> district that provide flexibility. Those teams patrol in different ways, the CBD team patrols downtown but they can be moved around. The community action team is the problem solving team. We have them not tied to calls for service. We also do overtime details, so we might identify a crime issue that we have to staff in a different way. For auto crime we'll have people working the overnight hours to deter and prevent the auto crime problem.

Capt Smith – last question, was if there’s any plan to improve 911 responsiveness. Don’t quite understand the question, but he had a conversation with his communications director this week. The 911 center has our emergency communications system operator. We’re recruiting for that and it’s a great job with no prior experience required, and it’s a great opportunity. In 2022, we answered 825,629 calls for service. 545,540 were 911, 258,000 were non-emergency, and the remainder being administrative calls. All Maryland 911 calls are using a standard base protocols system, so regardless of where you call in MD you’ll get similar questions, orienting you to policy, medical, or fire for response.

Pete Lublin – Lidl’s parking lot, last summer noticed that two of the lights were out, and they don’t go there at night. Those lights are still out, and that’s inviting crime in the parking lot, but they don’t do anything, can you do anything to prompt them to fix that?

Capt Smith – I’ll have to investigate who owns that parking lot and work on trying to get that resolved. I’ll put my e-mail in the chat so you can reach out to me on that.

Arquilla – We had an issue and our local civic association was able to reach out to the owners of a location and speak to the owners to get something done.

8:50 p.m.

Community Concerns Community members Objective:  
Opportunity for public comments

9:00

p.m.

Adjourn Arquilla Ridgell Chair  
Objective: Close out meeting

Chat transcript:

19:01:48 From Luisa Cardona to Everyone:

[https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/midcounty/Resources/Files/MCCAB%20agenda%2002\\_16\\_23.pdf](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/midcounty/Resources/Files/MCCAB%20agenda%2002_16_23.pdf)

19:01:57 From Luisa Cardona to Everyone:

That is the link to the agenda

19:17:09 From Luisa Cardona to Everyone:

Also please note that the Pedestrian Master Plan will go before the Planning Board on Thursday, March 23, 2023 in the Auditorium of the Wheaton Headquarters Building at 2425 Reddie Drive, Wheaton, MD. To check the approximate hearing time, go to <https://montgomeryplanningboard.org/agendas/>. There is also an option to join the public hearing as a virtual meeting with online streaming and public testimony. Online access can be found at the following link: <https://montgomeryplanningboard.org/meetings/watch-online/>.

19:26:55 From Rob Fox to Everyone:

I had a push a woman in an electric wheelchair home to the Earle Manor apartments while bringing my daughter home from pre-school today - better sidewalks would have been nice for that.

19:31:38 From Jose Ortiz CM NFG to Everyone:

Spanish invitation to CM Natali Fani-González townhall meeting:

19:32:06 From Rob Fox to Everyone:

Reacted to "Wheaton-Ped-Bike-Flyer.pdf" with 👍

19:32:12 From Rob Fox to Everyone:  
Reacted to "Wheaton-Ped-Bike-Flyer espanol.pdf" with 👍

19:36:04 From Jose Ortiz CM NFG to Everyone:  
Fentanyl Crisis Invitations Eng and Spa:

19:42:32 From Jose Ortiz CM NFG to Everyone:  
Natali Fani-González  
Council Office Building  
100 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, MD 20850  
Phone: 240-777-7870  
Email: councilmember.Fani-Gonzalez@montgomerycountymd.gov

19:49:13 From Jose Ortiz CM NFG to Everyone:  
If you have an invitation to Natali or concern, you can reach her at:

19:49:15 From Jose Ortiz CM NFG to Everyone:  
councilmember.Fani-Gonzalez@montgomerycountymd.gov

19:52:15 From Luisa Cardona to Everyone:  
The website for the 4th District:  
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/pol/districts/4D/index.html>

19:53:57 From Luisa Cardona to Everyone:  
Important data I wanted to share with you all:

19:54:33 From Luisa Cardona to Everyone:  
It breaks down OD Fatalities by race, age ect.

20:25:24 From Philip Ardanuy to Everyone:  
Fantastic presentation Captain Smith!

20:39:14 From Captain David Smith to Everyone:  
My Email is 4DCommander@montgomerycountymd.gov

20:40:02 From Pete to Everyone:  
Pete Lublin

20:40:22 From Pete to Everyone:  
Outdoorsguy\_1999@yahoo.com

20:40:49 From Rob Fox to Everyone:  
Nice e-mail, feel like I missed an opportunity with that