



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

A G E N D A

November 20, 2023

Join Zoom <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83005922323?pwd=NU9weklCTmZTNc6OE1vTHBnTjdGQT09>

Meeting ID: 830 0592 2323

Passcode: 777236

By phone: 301 715 8592

- 7:00 p.m. Call to Order and Welcome
- 7:02 p.m. Roll Call/ Minutes from previous Full Board Meeting (10/16/23)
- Christopher O'Brien moved and Jay Guan seconded motion to adopt, minutes were adopted without objection
- 7:05 p.m. ***Topic: Police Commanders and Public Safety***
- Cmdr. Dillman (District 1) –
 - Protecting the faith community in light of the Middle East conflict and the spike of hate crimes locally.
 - Stopped deploying officers in Rockville, except in case of emergency when municipal officers cannot make it in time.
 - 154 officers short, projected to be down 190 if the trend continues (which is larger than the number of officers within the 3rd District)
 - MCPD has had to be less exclusive in selection and hiring because of the staffing crisis nationwide → would-be officers know they can go anywhere
 - Paul Klee asks what is causing the shortage?
 - Loss of confidence in law enforcement nationwide.
 - Wayne Jacas asks about what accountability is present for bad officers?
 - Cmdr. Dillman states that internal affairs has always led to officers being terminated when they need to be.
 - Cmdr. Pallas (District 5) –
 - Travelling the country and speaking with other departments, where not everyone has the same staffing shortage that we have here.
 - Body-worn cameras are good for accountability.
 - Don't have the capacity for parking or traffic enforcement.
 - Kraig Walsleben raised concerns about an all-civilian review board
 - Wayne Jacas states that accountability is necessary as well and that the community does support and respect the officers.
 - Lt. Estrada (District 6) –
 - Transitioned over to full control of municipal officers in Gaithersburg, with support from MCPD as needed.
 - There are several developmental programs in Seneca Valley HS and Thomas Edison HS
 - Mentorship program (Explorer Program) helped Cmdr. Stancliff and Lt. Estrada in their careers.
 - Revonne Johnson spoke out in favor of the community engagement and mentorship programs for restoring relationships with the community and expressed concern with the lower recruitment resulting in fewer quality options during hiring.

- Mary Hoel asks what would the commanders do to address the staffing shortage?
 - Cmdr. Dillman says altering the political discourse and higher compensation relative to neighboring jurisdictions to reflect the higher cost of living.
- Steve Robinson asked about what is being done in terms of engagement with the community and how that has been impacted by low staffing.
 - The loss of SROs is a concern.
 - There has been less ability to engage proactively in the community because of the lack of officers and how spread thin they are.
- Chris O'Brien states that local enforcement of traffic violations may make sense and that there may be room for automation to address some of the shortage in traffic enforcement.
 - Cmdr. Dillman states that there is a lot of red tape
 - Legislative proposal to permit speeding cameras in places where the speed limit is 45 mph or less (right now it is 35 or less)
- Wayne Jacas asked if there are other things, like ankle monitors, that can be used to keep youth out of trouble if they cannot be jailed.
 - Cmdr. Dillman says that there is little they can do to intervene, which is demoralizing.
- Captain Cokinos discussed the drone program, which is a pilot program just in Silver Spring to automate first response to some crimes and allow for better de-escalation.
 - The drones also permit more efficient use of officers as they can determine whether an officer is even necessary.
 - Pilot runs until June 30, 2024.
 - Public website: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/pol/howdoI/drone-as-first-responder.html>
 - Andrew Saundry asked how this was distinct from the Baltimore surveillance drone program
 - Capt. Cokinos states that this is reactive, instead of proactive, and that it is not broad surveillance of any areas outside the specific scope immediately surrounding a call zone.

7:45 p.m.

Discussion: Charter Review Commission – Skipped

- Please email suggestions to Jake Adler, Greg Wims, or Andrew Saundry.

8:00 p.m.

County Council Updates

- Hope Klein – Council President Glass
- Doug Wallach – Councilmember Luedtke
- Craig Wilson – Councilmember Balcombe
- Ezra Pine – Councilmember Sayles
- Channon Sicard – Councilmember Katz

8:15 p.m.

Upcounty Regional Office Director

- 18-year old killed in the Cider Mill Community
- UpCounty Hub passed out 500 thanksgiving meals.

8:20 p.m.

Community Concerns (3 min each)

- Discussion about drafting a letter regarding the law enforcement staffing shortage
- Wayne Jacas moved to send the letter to the Quality of Life Committee for drafting, Steve Augustino seconded. Motion carried with no opposition.

8:30 p.m.

Adjourn

- Wayne Jacas moved to adjourn, Paul Klee seconded
- Adjourned at 9:04 pm

Note: Sign language interpreter services will be provided only upon request with notice as far in advance as possible, but no less than 72 hours prior to the event. If these or other services or aids are needed to participate in this activity, contact Greg Wims at 240-777-8040 or at greg.wims@montgomerycountymd.gov.

12900 Middlebrook Road, Suite 1000, Germantown, Maryland 20874



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

2022-2023 Board Members and Committees

	Name	Area	Committee
Y	Andrew Saundry, Chair	Germantown	Executive Committee
Y	Amanda Hunt Franklin, 1st Vice Chair	Poolesville	Executive Committee
N	Christel Bivens, 2nd Vice Chair	Germantown	Executive Committee
N	Matilda Adu	N. Potomac/Potomac	Quality of Life
Y	Steven Augustino	Gaithersburg	Quality of Life

Y	Wayne Jacas	Boyds/Clarksburg	Quality of Life
N	Robert Bartlett	Germantown	Land Use
N	Steve Wambo Kanga	Potomac	
N	Hassan Dixon	Germantown	Quality of Life
Y	Jay Guan	Clarksburg	Quality of Life, Chair
Y	Mary Hoel	Laytonsville	Land Use
Y	Revonne Johnson	Germantown	Quality of Life
Y	Paul Klee	Darnestown	Land Use
	Paul Li	Shady Grove	
Y	Tangela Nichols	Boyds/Clarksburg	Quality of Life
Y	Christopher O'Brien	Gaithersburg	Quality of Life
Y	Kraig Walsleben	Damascus	Land Use
Y	Steve Robinson	Damascus	Land Use, Chair

Effective November 2022