

March 22, 2011

Honorable Valerie Ervin, President
Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Md.20850

Matt Zaborsky
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DELIVERED VIA EMAIL TO COUNCILMEMBER.ERVIN@MONTGOMERYCOUNTYMD.GOV

Dear Ms. Ervin and Honorable Councilmembers:

The Olney Satellite Police Station has been an invaluable community resource since it was first established in 1997. In April 2010, I testified before the Montgomery County Council regarding the Olney Police Satellite Station and its importance to the greater Olney Community. Just like last year, it is once again targeted in county budget cuts and we are asking for your consideration as we believe a decision to close this station is a mistake as well as extremely unpopular with our community.

The initiative for this facility was born out of a community need for better response time from the police when a serious incident occurred. The greater Olney community falls in the John sector of the 4th district and covers more area than any other part of Montgomery County. Satellite Stations are primarily funded by the communities they support. **Montgomery County is *only* responsible for the cost of the electric and the phone/data lines - estimated at \$11,000 per year.** All other costs are funded by the greater Olney community. **For the record - The greater Olney community, both the business community and local residents, has financially supported the station since its opening in 1997 raising over \$60,000 to support this station.**

Our Satellite Station serves a multitude of purposes to include: a visual deterrent to crime in the area; a place where local business owners and residents can ask questions, report crimes, and interact with local police officers; offers the police officers serving this area a place to stop and get out of their vehicle, check reports, and go to the restroom in a safe environment while on duty. Absent the Satellite Station, county police must travel greater distances to patrol, increasing operating costs. The officers will be less responsive to criminal activity and crime prevention will become crime investigation thus making the greater Olney community less safe.

If the funding for the Olney Police Satellite Station is eliminated, Olney would look into the feasibility of total funding by this community but at this time can not guarantee this level of support. If the station is removed from the area, I am concerned that the capital support to replace it in the future will not be available. During these tough economic times for the county tough choices have to be made. However, we strongly feel the decision to keep the Olney Police Satellite Station should be an easy one considering the few dollars involved.

The Olney community thanks you for your consideration.

Sincerely Yours,

Matt Zaborsky

Matt Zaborsky
President