

March 28, 2011

The Honorable Isiah Leggett  
Montgomery County Executive  
101 Monroe Street  
Rockville MD 20850

Delivered via email to: [ocemail@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:ocemail@montgomerycountymd.gov)

Dear Mr. Leggett:

As you know, the Olney community recently was the scene of two homicides. To say the least, these were shocking events—Olney is not the type of community where things like this are expected to occur, and we are repeatedly told by the Police that Olney, in comparison to some other areas of the County, does not have a serious crime problem. Not surprisingly, many of our citizens reacted to this situation with alarm, deep concern, and cries for some type of action.

Most gratifyingly, the situation did not fester. The Police reacted quickly and effectively and were able to identify and apprehend a suspect within a short period of time. What the Police did here with their resources to solve these crimes was most impressive and they are to be commended for that. But of even greater significance to us was the marvelous job the Police did in staying in contact with us and keeping the community informed.

For example, Fourth District Commander John Damskey was quick to contact me personally from the scene on Monday, the 21st, afternoon after the shooting had occurred. He calmly assured me the situation was in the firm control of the police. He also took the time from his hectic schedule to place a message on the Olney Brookeville Exchange, a Yahoo discussion group with more than 1,900 members in the Olney area, explaining what the Police were doing to identify a suspect, providing assurances that there would be increased police presence in Olney, and in effect letting us all know that he personally, as a member of our community, had a stake in the outcome of the investigation. Chief Manger and Assistant Chief Jerman also worked diligently to assure the Olney community the police were out in front of this terrible tragedy. This level of contact and involvement with the community during an on-going investigation, at least for us, was unprecedented and was most valuable. It kept us informed about what the Police were doing, kept us up to date (to the extent information could be released) on developments, provided continuing assurances that the Police were taking the matter seriously and bringing maximum resources to bear on the situation, and helped to provide a calming effect throughout our concerned community.

On behalf of the Greater Olney community, I want to express deep appreciation to Chief Manger, Assistant Chief Jerman, and Commander Damskey not only for their professionalism in quickly solving these two homicides, but also for their sensitivity to community concerns and for their willingness and outstanding efforts to treat the community as they did. This was a superb example of police-community cooperation, and we are most grateful and most appreciative.

Sincerely,

*Matt Zaborsky*

Matt Zaborsky  
President

cc: The Honorable Valerie Ervin, President, Montgomery County Council  
cc: The Honorable Phil Andrews, Chair, Public Safety Committee, Montgomery County Council

**Matt Zaborsky**  
President  
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