

Background: Whereas there have been a few incidents nationwide where a few police officers may have exercised poor judgment in performing their duties, most citizens appreciate the work police officers perform and applaud the police for the dangerous work they do everyday on behalf of citizens. While it is important to examine individual lapses in judgment as opportunities to improve the system, general attempts to defund the police or prohibit them from enforcing the law and protecting the citizenship is counterproductive to the safety of society. Montgomery County already has one of the lowest ratios in the Country of policemen to citizens and it would be improper to reduce this ratio further. Policemen are our friends and provide law and order in the community and should be increased for these purposes rather than decreased.

Whereas the latest draft available for Montgomery County's effort to "reimage the police" calls for:

1. Replacing Schools Resources Officers (SROS) with just Counselors;
2. A likely reduction in the number of Police officers who could carry guns to protect themselves and the Public;
3. Fully automatic traffic enforcement (who will curtail reckless and impaired drivers in real time);
4. Reducing enforcement of drug violations (this will strongly emboldened MS-13 criminal activity according to MCPD's 2019 Crime and Safety Report and other illegal drug activity);
5. Possible elimination of enforcement of trespass law (who would citizens call if there was suspicious activity on private property in their community);
6. Recommendation 12 - "Reduce sworn officer FTE's in Police Districts 3 and 4 (THIS INCLUDES OLNEY) by 50% to reduce police officer contact with residents in these districts." (Let us not forget that by further reducing the police force you further increase not only the danger to citizens, but also the danger to the policemen who trying to enforce the law and protect the safety of the population with inadequate staff.)

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Greater Olney Civic Association hereby strongly opposes the above Montgomery County plan to "reimagine the police."