**MCCPTA Resolution on School Resource Officers and School Safety and Security**

**Whereas:** Montgomery County has placed police officers as school resource officers in our public schools since 2002. As recently as 2014, Montgomery County only had six police officers in MCPS schools. Today, MCPS has 26 police officers serving as school resource officers (one in each high school).

**Whereas:** The Maryland Safe to Learn Act of 2018 mandates either the assignment of an SRO or adequate law enforcement coverage for each individual school within each of Maryland’s 24 local school systems. Since the passage of the Safe to Learn Act, there is no evidence to suggest that a school-based SRO is required to ensure school safety.

**Whereas:** A recent report by MCPS details the existence of racial bias in policing in our schools. Black and Latino students represent 83% of total arrests over the last three years at MCPS. Black children who make up just 20% of the student body make up almost half of all student arrests.

**Whereas:** Students with disabilities are also overrepresented in school arrests. These students make up just 12% of the school population but 25% of school-based arrests.

**Whereas:** Once police are involved and engaged with our children, MCPS and parents no longer have jurisdiction or authority in the referred matter.

**Whereas:**  The organizations listed below this resolution are all in support of the discontinuation of placing police officers (SROs) on every high school campus (see attached).

**Be it Resolved:** That the Montgomery County Council of Parent Teacher Associations urge Montgomery County Public Schools to discontinue placing police officers (SROs) on every high school campus.

**Be it further Resolved:** That MCCPTA urge MCPS to engage in a broad discussion with students, parents, staff and community stakeholders to solicit input on ways to enhance safety, security and meet the ongoing social and emotional needs of students in our schools without the bias and discrimination against black and brown students and  students with disabilities that have plagued the SRO program. This discussion should also yield alternative uses for the resources currently devoted to the SRO program.

**Be it further Resolved:** That MCPS implement stronger data collection and publication, monitoring, and accountability with regard to school-initiated discipline and interventions.

**Be it further Resolved:** That MCPS allocate more funds towards evidence-driven programs, including an increased curricular, staff development and programmatic focus on social emotional learning, mental health and well-being, restorative practices, conflict resolution, and behavioral threat assessments and crisis response.

**Be it finally Resolved:** MCCPTA will advocate this position with the Board of Education, MCPS and other elected bodies, such as the Montgomery County Council, that has an interest in this issue.

**For the full testimony on the SRO program from the MCCPTA Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee:** https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:76154466-892c-4d87-b633-e4c18c3ad8c4

**List of Organizations Supporting Taking SROs out of**
**Montgomery County Public Schools**

ACLU MD, Montgomery County Chapter
ACLU of Maryland
Asian American Progressive Student Union
Bethesda African Cemetery Coalition
Bonimot Tzedek (Justice Builders)
CASA
DC Teens Action
DMV Peaceful Protest
Hear Our Voices MoCo
Jews United for Justice
Maryland Poor People’s Campaign
MoCo Against Brutality
Moms of Black Boys United for Social Change
Montgomery County Democratic Socialists of America
Montgomery County Education Forum
Montgomery County Racial Equity (MORE) Network
Montgomery County Students for Change
Muslim Public Affairs Council
Progressive Maryland
Showing Up for Racial Justice - Montgomery County, MD
Silver Spring Justice Coalition
Sisterhood of Salam Shalom
Students Toward Equitable Public Schools
Sunrise Silver Spring
Takoma Park Mobilization-Equal Justice Committee
xMinds Partnership for Extraordinary Minds
Young People for Progress
Youth Creating Change
Youth For Equity