

Statement Regarding the July 16, 2021 Police Shooting and Killing at  
Gaithersburg McDonald's

On Friday, Montgomery County Police Officers responded to a call about a driver who allegedly refused to move from the McDonald's drive-through line at 18273 Flower Hill Way in Gaithersburg. Shortly thereafter, the man had been shot and killed by responding officers.

MCPD has thus far released no body camera footage and virtually no details of the incident outside of what might be perceived as exculpatory. MCPD's press release states that the victim had a gun on his passenger seat, but provides no detail about whether the gun was permitted or used. Mentioning the alleged gun implies justification where none may exist. MCPD must immediately release footage and more information.

The department has provided no details about what took place between when officers arrived and when they shot the victim, no description of any efforts made to deescalate the situation, and no explanation of why lethal force was deemed necessary.

I am calling on MCPD to release all unedited footage of the incident and a detailed explanation of how a man allegedly refusing to move out of line at a McDonald's ended up dead at MCPD's hands.

It should also be noted that this shooting will be investigated by the Howard County Police Department. Having another police department, especially a neighboring one with likely social ties to members of MCPD, as the investigative body is not the best way to ensure transparency and accountability. This underscores the need for true community oversight and the end of trial boards, demands that have long been made by local advocacy groups and families impacted by police violence.

In January of this year, Montgomery County's own Reimagining Public Safety Task Force released a report calling on the county government to "shift certain responsibilities from police to County agencies and community organizations" and "implement and/or expand alternative responses to crime" as well as numerous other reforms. It is past time for Montgomery County to implement its own recommendations.

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