

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

Marcus G. Jones
Chief of Police

To: Hans Riemer, Chair

PHED Committee

From: Lauren Donato,

Planning Manager, MCPD

Date: July 20, 2021

Re: MCPD Comments on Planning Board Draft, Thrive Montgomery 2050

MCPD has the following comments on the Planning Board draft:

I. OVERVIEW

Development/Population Density

There is a direct correlation of calls for police services and development/population density. Going with a more densely developed community which focuses more on public transportation and less on the automobile will result in MCPD making adjustments in how it configures its resources to provide an appropriate level of service. For example, police facilities may need to be more decentralized so that they are embedded within the community to foster better engagement with the citizens. However, staffing these police facilities with a smaller service area may create fiscal challenges.

Access/Response Time

Future development will need to take into account adequate access by police and other public safety services to ensure that we can respond quickly to emergencies, answer other calls for service, and be visible within the community. As access is considered, please ensure that the specific operational needs/limitations of our vehicles and equipment are taken into consideration.

New Approaches/Technology for Delivering Police Services

Policing is being redefined locally and nationally as we speak. As this change occurs, consideration should be given to how these changes will impact future service allocation/configuration/delivery.

II. SPECIFIC COMMENTS ON THE PLANNING BOARD DRAFT'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Chief J. Thomas Manger Public Safety Headquarters - 100 Edison Park Drive Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878
www.montgomerycountymd.gov - www.mymcpnews.com - ChiefMCPD@montgomerycountymd.gov

A. Compact Growth Chapter, p, 32:

“Concentrate growth in centers of activity along corridors through compact, infill development and redevelopment to maximize efficient use of land. “

As growth opportunities arise and activity centers become more populated, the need for additional police stations or facilities may also arise. The availability of land may impact size and capability of a new station. Additionally, the location of available land may impact access for those using public transportation or conversely, impact parking options for individuals commuting into the area.

B. Design, Arts & Culture Chapter, p. 63:

“Design buildings, streets, and parking to prioritize the pedestrian scale and encourage walking and bicycling through smaller blocks, narrower streets, buffered bike lanes and sidewalks. Slow vehicle speeds and minimize surface parking while adequately accommodating automobiles.”

The design of streets, bicycle lanes, and pedestrian areas may impact the ability, speed, and route in which emergency vehicles can travel through and respond to calls for service quickly and safely. Consideration should also be taken for the type of vehicle most likely used in those areas, i.e. electric police cruiser, motorcycle, bicycle, etc. Future vehicle design and capability may promote or limit certain types of emergency vehicles, as they tend to be larger and more equipped than standard passenger cars