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May 2, 2011
11115 Fawsett Road
Potomac, MD 20854

Dear Council President Ervin & Councilmembers:

The Montgomery County Civic Federation expresses our concern over the proposed elimination of the remaining 9 School Resource Officers from the proposed budget. We believe the schools with the greatest security issues should have the benefit of uniformed police officers consistently on duty, visibly present to the students, able to get to know the student body and proactively work to constrain security problems. Losing these officers will result in schools that are less safe and secure, and learning will be compromised as a result.

We do not, however, think that the County's budget should be the instrument for financing this program, but that MCPS should find the resources to continue its funding. Assuming that safety and security are a top priority for our public high schools, it should be up to the school system to insure that those schools which have the most need for School Resource Officers should to benefit from their presence.

Sincerely,

/s/

Peggy Dennis, President
Montgomery County Civic Federation

Cc: County Executive Isiah Leggett
Christopher S. Barkley, Chairman, Board of Education