



**To:** The One Fairfax Community Roundtable

**From:** Fairfax County NAACP, Matthew Sowd, Criminal Justice Committee Co-Chair

**Subject:** Statement on the Sidelining of the One Fairfax Equity Action Team (EAT)

**Date:** October 7, 2025

The Fairfax County NAACP has serious concerns about the lack of response from the County to the sidelining of the One Fairfax Roundtable's first Equity Action Team (EAT)—and, by extension, the concerns of BIPOC and lower-income communities—by the Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD).

At the *request of FCPD*, the Foot Pursuit EAT was created by the Roundtable to advise the Fairfax County Police Department on its new Foot Pursuit Policy. This EAT's role was to support the County's efforts to advance racial and social equity and prioritize the needs of BIPOC and lower-income communities. When FCPD chose to publish its Foot Pursuit Policy instead of fulfilling its promise to review and respond to the highest-priority recommendations of the very EAT *it requested*, the County's response failed to acknowledge the breach of trust and instead trivialized the concerns of the EAT.

One of the priorities of the EAT was to ensure that the killing of Timothy Johnson—a man who was chased into the woods for allegedly stealing sunglasses and killed by an FCPD officer—could never happen again. After months of productive collaboration, FCPD promised to review and respond to the EAT's highest-priority recommendations, which addressed the lack of consideration in the draft policy regarding the severity of the offense when choosing to pursue, the lack of data transparency in the policy, and the limited dashboard created by FCPD. Instead of reviewing and responding to the EAT's recommendations, FCPD released its Foot Pursuit Policy without notice just a few days later.

In July, the County sent a letter to the Roundtable and EAT offering to meet to discuss the Roundtable's concerns regarding the treatment of the EAT. Demonstrating the County's low prioritization of challenges to the efficacy of the Roundtable it created, the County only recently followed through on scheduling this meeting—inviting only select Roundtable and EAT members and indicating it would not discuss the Foot Pursuit Policy.

In responding to community concerns about this breach of trust, the County has further trivialized the concerns of the NAACP and the EAT by refusing to acknowledge that FCPD released the Foot Pursuit Policy after promising to review their priority recommendations. The County merely acknowledged that the draft policy should have been shared with the EAT prior to release—something that, in fact, had occurred to allow the EAT to make the very recommendations that were ignored.

A major priority of the EAT was to monitor and assess the equity impacts of the Foot Pursuit Policy through data transparency. In its response, the County ignored concerns about FCPD's intransigence on

data transparency and repeated FCPD's unsubstantiated claim that its open data portal is “the first of its kind.” We ask—in what sense? A data portal is meant to empower the community to evaluate their police department through incident-level data and dashboards that enable independent community analysis.

One need only compare [FCPD's cluttered and disorganized data portal](#) to [Portland's clean and data-focused portal](#) to understand the absurdity of FCPD's claim, which the County appears to accept at face value out of convenience. Portland's portal features interactive and powerful dashboards, data reports, and incident-level datasets—including use-of-force data, an area of fundamental importance to the community that FCPD refuses to release. At least 29 individual police departments, and all California police departments, have made such data publicly available.

FCPD's data portal, by contrast, is filled with topics unrelated to data, basic statistics, and a few incident-level datasets required by the state or authorized for release by the previous police chief. It is clear to the community that FCPD's data portal is not so much an exercise in transparency as it is a controlled release of information meant to check a box, self-promote, and ensure that released data does not threaten the department.

As an exercise, we encourage listeners to attempt using FCPD's Foot Pursuit dashboard to answer your questions about foot pursuits. We doubt you'll be able to find it—and, based on our experience, the County won't find high-level observations, such as Black and Latino community members making up 87% of those involved in foot pursuits, worthy of further investigation or concern.

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