

FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA

MEMORANDUM

To: Colonel Edwin C. Roessler, Jr.
Chief of Police

DATE: June 25, 2020

FROM: Jeffrey C. McKay
Chairman

Rodney L. Lusk
Lee District Supervisor

SUBJECT: Police Department Data

As you know, the last few weeks have been extraordinarily difficult for our community. Protests of police conduct that disproportionately affects people of color are playing out against the backdrop of a historic pandemic that will affect our County for years to come. Although we are fortunate to be ahead of other jurisdictions policy-wise, increased transparency must continue to be our goal moving forward. This is an area we must do better in.

We can all agree that the continued release of information by the Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD) is important. The Board of Supervisors now has the latest annual School Resource Officer (SRO) report, as well as the 2019 FCPD annual report and use of force data. Thank you for making this information available to the public.

We are happy to see improvements in the SRO data. The use of force data is troubling, but we are glad we are one of the few Police Departments in the Commonwealth of Virginia to be transparent with this level of data. Presenting it and understanding it, while difficult, is how we improve and address disparities.

While we recognize that FCPD has faced vendor related challenges that have impacted its ability to break down data from prior years, both the community and our Board feel that it has become absolutely imperative that we develop a workaround to those barriers as soon as possible. This cannot be just a vendor problem, especially given that the requests for more transparent data are not new.

We have spoken with numerous residents and stakeholder groups about the importance of this data. To that end, FCPD should release and publish all data on all FCPD police stops, to include traffic citations, traffic stops, and arrests, by police station and magisterial district, broken down by race, gender, and ethnicity of each individual in the data.

FCPD should provide the Board a timeline for that work to occur by June 30, 2020, with an understanding that the timeliness of this work is paramount. To achieve this expeditiously, the release of the requested information does not need to occur all at once. A phased release of statistics, as they are completed, would be welcomed.

For your awareness, many in the community, including the County's NAACP branch, have requested it by July 15. In your response to the Board, please let us know if that is achievable. If not, please let us know how close to that date we can expect results.

cc: Members, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
Bryan Hill, County Executive