



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

OFFICE OF THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

September 25, 2012

Mr. Lanny J. Davis
Attorney for Montgomery County Fraternal Order of Police
655 15th Street, Suite 810
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Davis,

I am in receipt of your invitation to join you in a series of debates throughout the county with respect to the Council's unanimous decision to remove "effects bargaining" for our police. I respectfully decline your invitation.

The unspoken premise behind your invitation would appear to be that this issue has not been debated widely. It has. It was debated by the Organizational Reform Commission; it was debated by the Public Safety Committee; it was debated by our full Council after thorough public hearings; and it was debated before our Democratic party precinct officials.

The outcome of every one of those debates was strong support for eliminating effects bargaining -- a right, as you know, that no other police union in the State of Maryland has, nor any other County union possesses. In the case of our Democratic party leaders, a group that is as supportive of working men and women and the collective bargaining rights of unions as any group in the country, almost 90% of those officials supported eliminating effects bargaining as proposed by the County Council and strongly supported by the County Executive and the Police Chief.

As the party who has lost in each and every one of these forums, I can understand why you and your client want any and every opportunity you can manufacture to continue to press your case. However, you appear to have ample resources available to make your views known to voters.

Moreover, given the regrettable manner in which you have pressed your case thus far, I have no desire to accommodate your extraordinary request. It is unseemly to essentially accuse the County Executive and Police Chief of lying. Here in Montgomery County, we hold ourselves to a higher standard when it comes to our public discourse. To date, you have failed to meet that standard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Berliner", written over a horizontal line.

Roger Berliner
Council President
Montgomery County Council

cc: County Executive Leggett, OCEmail@montgomerycountymd.gov
Police Chief Tom Manger, MCPDChief@montgomerycountymd.gov
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