



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

VALERIE ERVIN
COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT 5

Memorandum

To: Isiah Leggett, County Executive
Marc P. Hansen, County Attorney

From: Valerie Ervin

Date: August 13, 2013

Subject: Implementation of School Bus Safety Cameras

I am writing today to express my frustration after learning that the Police Department is still awaiting legal guidance on issuing a request for proposal (RFP) to implement Bill 37-11, Motor Vehicles and Traffic-School Bus Safety Cameras (Ch. 1 LMC 2012), nearly 17 months after the Council unanimously enacted this law and more than a year after its June 15, 2012 effective date. As you know, this law authorizes the Police Chief, after consulting with the Board of Education, to install, maintain, and operate cameras on County school buses to monitor vehicles passing stopped school buses.

The Maryland Transportation Article §21-706 prohibits a vehicle from overtaking a stopped school bus that is operating its alternately flashing red lights. Montgomery County continues to have the highest number of these types of violations according to surveys conducted by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). Just yesterday, MSDE issued the results of a one-day survey showing that 1,078 drivers in Montgomery County ignored the stop arms on school buses.

The goal of this law is to keep our children safe while traveling on school buses by changing the behavior of motorists. With students headed back to school on August 26, this issue is extremely urgent.

Please provide me with an update as to where this issue stands. I am going to request a joint meeting of the Council's Education and Public Safety Committees to review this issue and to get an update on future public education efforts associated with school bus safety. Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

cc: Nancy Navarro, Council President
Phil Andrews, Councilmember
J. Thomas Manger, Chief, Police Department
Christopher Barclay, President, Board of Education, MCPS
Dr. Joshua Starr, Superintendent, MCPS
Tom Didone, Captain, Police Department
Joy Nurmi, Special Assistant, Office of the County Executive
Todd Watkins, Director of Transportation, MCPS
Michael Faden, Council Senior Legislative Attorney
Robert Drummer, Senior Legislative Attorney
Essie McGuire, Legislative Analyst
Susan Farag, Legislative Analyst