

ARLINGTON BRANCH #7047

NAACP

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Michael Hemminger, 3rd Vice President

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Dominique Jenkins, Assistant Secretary

Roy Austin, Treasurer

Adriana Spain, Assistant Treasurer

At-Large Executive Committee Members

Karen Nightingale, Symone Walker, Esq.,

James Younger, Esq

June 10, 2021

Mrs. Monique O'Grady
Chair
Arlington County School Board
2110 Washington Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22204

Re: School Resource Officers Work Group Recommendations

Dear Chair O'Grady:

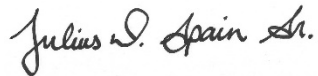
The Arlington Branch NAACP #7047 Education Committee commends the members of the SRO Working Group on their dedication and hard work over the past six months to evaluate the roles and practices of School Resource Officers (SROs) in Arlington Public Schools (APS). We would also like to commend Brian Stockton and the facilitators for their leadership, as well as APS staff and Arlington County Police Department (ACPD) for supporting the Work Group's efforts.

On June 3, recommendations from the Superintendent and the SRO Work Group were presented to School Board members. The key recommendation was that SROs be removed from Arlington Public Schools full-time. While there were other recommendations from the Superintendent, such as renaming the program and placing police officers in proximity outside of the school boundaries, we believe those are considerations to be undertaken by ACPD. The focus should be on the primary recommendation since there was agreement among key School Board members that the removal of SROs was the appropriate action given the Work Group's findings.

We encourage the School Board to consider the SRO Work Group's recommendations carefully and take action on June 24 to ensure that the recommended change in the relationship between APS and ACPD is fully and appropriately implemented prior to the upcoming school year. In addition, it will be critically important for APS to prioritize implementing restorative practices districtwide, as soon as possible, to ensure that the culture of discipline in APS continues to evolve to honor the whole child, and discipline disparities experienced by minority students are eliminated.

We are excited about this new chapter in APS history and look forward to collaborating with the School Board and APS leadership in the ongoing development of a culture that honors and includes minority children, and allows them to perform to their highest levels.

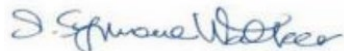
Sincerely,



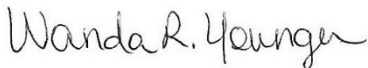
Julius D. Spain, Sr.
President, Arlington Branch NAACP



Sherrice Kerns
2nd Vice President and Co-Chair, NAACP Education Committee



Symone Walker
At-Large Executive Committee Member and
Co-Chair, NAACP Education Committee



Wanda R. Younger
Branch Secretary

cc: School Board Members, Arlington Public Schools

Francisco Durán, Ph.D.
Superintendent, Arlington Public Schools

Brian Stockton
Chief of Staff, Arlington Public Schools

Jeannette Allen, Ph.D.
Interim Assistant Superintendent, Department of Administrative Services

Arron Gregory
Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer