

**Testimony for the Environment and Transportation Committee February  
10th, 2022 – HB 231 / MC 18-22  
SUPPORT**

Greetings, my name is Omodamola Williams. I am a resident of Gaithersburg in Montgomery County and am testifying on behalf of Young People for Progress. Young People for Progress is a member based civic and advocacy organization of young people under 35 in Montgomery County. We strongly support and urge the passage of HB 231 / MC 18-22, to enable Montgomery County to allow its Department of Transportation to oversee automated traffic enforcement. We thank Delegate Crutchfield for taking the lead in sponsoring this bill.

Police over the past few decades are burdened with too many responsibilities outside their core duties. Moving automated traffic enforcement to the Department of Transportation will allow the police to focus more on actual crime and allow automated traffic enforcement to be overseen by a more appropriate department. Modern police departments are responsible for an ever-increasing number of government functions and services that almost have nothing to do with an actual crime being committed. For example, a man having an anxiety attack, or a lady whose car has a flat tire would need services like Emergency Medical Responders and/or roadside assistance. So basically police departments are being pushed to be generalists instead of focusing on solving crime.

Allowing other departments to take more responsibility for services around issues in which they specialize will give the public more effective service and support. The Department of Health handles health violations and the Department of Housing handles housing violations; why should this be any different with transportation? We should not have police officers responsible for street safety conditions. By asking an organization whose responsibility is street safety to handle automated traffic enforcement, we allow the police to focus on more important matters to police while our Department of Transportation handles tasks they are better equipped for in the long term.

Thank you for your time.

Omodamola Eric Williams,  
Young People for Progress