

Testimony in Support of HB 231
By Robert Landau for Silver Spring Justice Coalition

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My name is Robert Landau, and I live in Gaithersburg. This testimony is provided in support of HB 231 on behalf of the Silver Spring Justice Coalition. SSJC is a coalition of community members, faith groups, and civil and human rights organizations from throughout Montgomery County. We envision a state and county where community and individual needs for safety are met while harm by police is eliminated.

HB 231 will allow Montgomery County to move its automated traffic enforcement from the Montgomery County Police to the Montgomery County Department of Transportation.

For two years in a row, both the County Executive and the County Council have unanimously supported passage of this authorizing legislation. As you well know, the Montgomery County Delegation has voted its unanimous support for this bill.

We urge your support for this bill because it will:

- Give traffic cameras greater credibility across Montgomery County by moving its administration to the MC-Department of Transportation – **IF** the County authorizes this permitted transfer of duties.
- Allow Montgomery County to move the bureaucratic aspects of ticket writing for traffic camera violations to the MC-DOT, while freeing up valuable police resources for more core operations.
- Allow the MC-DOT to have more immediate access to traffic data that will support their role in the Montgomery County Vision Zero campaign.
- Provide an important aspect of local control to county residents and leaders.

The bill will not change the criteria for citations nor the basis for locating traffic cameras.

We urge your favorable report on HB 231.