

COMMUNITY-INFORMED POLICING

SONIA Y. W. PRUITT
PROGRAM DIRECTOR



Introduction

The Community-Informed Policing Program began as a vision of Montgomery County Councilman Will Jawando in 2020, in response to critical policing reform efforts that were ongoing throughout the country. The vision was to enhance police training and education in a way that would foster building relationships between law enforcement and the Montgomery County community. The collaboration would address pressing social issues and concerns that caused division between those who live and work in Montgomery County, and its public safety entities. He met with faculty and executives of Montgomery College, and work started on a curriculum that would offer education and training for police officers newly graduated from the Montgomery County Police Academy. Officers would be provided with tools to navigate a rapidly changing diverse landscape in policing. Further, officers would have an opportunity to explore and discuss in a safe learning environment those topics key to healing the damaged relationship between law enforcement and the most vulnerable communities they serve.

In October 2022, Montgomery County enacted Bill 17-21, Police - Community Informed Police Training. The bill, co-sponsored by Councilmember Jawando and Councilmember Hans Reimer, established a partnership between the Montgomery County Police Department and educational institutions, such as Montgomery College, to educate police officers in community-responsive policing, and to boost recruitment efforts by offering tools to build trust within the community.

Montgomery College was tasked with the research and development of best practices for socially just policing. The college also accepted the task of developing an outline for training and education and a curriculum for one of three elements of the program, which involved the training of MCPD officers newly graduated from the police academy.

October 2022

**Montgomery County Bill 17-21
Police - Community Informed
Police Training**

Addresses pressing social issues that cause division between police and community.

Community Partners

Provide critical interaction with officers during the training

480 Club
Emerge Triumphantlly
Identity
Montgomery County Office of Human Rights
Street Outreach Network

The Curriculum

The curriculum is designed so that participants can develop the competency to apply 21st Century Policing concepts involving race equity perspectives, deep analysis, and community policing methods through interaction with subject matter experts. Facilitators are from a diverse cross-section of faculty from various disciplines--Criminal Justice, Psychology, Sociology, English and Reading, and the MC Library. Guest speakers with race-equity and historical perspectives are utilized, and community members who routinely experience policing are also invited for an in-person or virtual session with officers during the program. The curriculum provides officers an opportunity to tackle real-life, authentic, complex, policing challenges they may face, as well as tools to navigate a rapidly changing diverse landscape in policing. Further, officers would have an opportunity to explore and discuss in a safe learning environment those topics key to healing the damaged relationship between law enforcement and the most vulnerable communities they serve.

Areas of Study

Policing History

Racial Equity and Social Justice

Health and Wellness

Active Listening and Conflict Resolution

Community Policing and Civic Engagement

Facilitation includes periodic follow-up with officers to assess their use of information learned in real-life, practical situations.

Since March 2023, 43 police officers have participated in the Montgomery College Community-Informed Policing Program. The next cohort is scheduled for September 2024.

- The program is also an opportunity to introduce police officers to the educational services of Montgomery College.
- Police officers are encouraged to complete additional studies at Montgomery College, by enrolling in credit and continuing education courses.

Opportunity for Community Engagement

Each session of The Community-Informed Policing Program provides an opportunity for officers and community members to engage in dialogue and sharing of ideas for equitable policing.



COMMUNITY-INFORMED POLICING

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

Thursday, September 5

2:30 PM

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE
ROCKVILLE CAMPUS
51 MANNAKEE STREET
SCIENCE CENTER LECTURE HALL
RM SW 301
ROCKVILLE, MD 20850



A conversation with newly sworn officers of Montgomery County PD

Discussion will include:

- **Challenges facing the police/community relationship**
- **Ideas for how the police can effectively and positively engage the community**

For more information, contact
CIP Program Director,
Professor Sonia Pruitt:

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****Seating is Limited****

Remarks by:

Joseph Hooks
Founder/Director
480 Club

To join this important
conversation, register at:

[https://form.jotform.com/
233377208120146](https://form.jotform.com/233377208120146)

Or scan
the QR code



Feedback

Measuring the success of the program and where to make adjustments involve ongoing assessment processes that include feedback from participating police officers....

"I appreciate everything from you and your staff. I learned so much during the short period. During the community meet and greet, I was able to make a connection with one of the community members. It was interesting to hear them and listen to what they want in their police department."

"I enjoyed the class and it was a pleasure meeting you and learning from you and the community. This was a positive interaction."

"I absolutely love this training. I believe is important to educate officers for them to do the job better. "

"I really enjoyed seeing the statistics on the demographics and breakdown within the communities we will be policing. I felt that the information and discussion was very valuable for us as officers."

"I really liked the discussions we had today as a group and seeing the different points of view. I feel that it reaffirmed the idea of keeping an open mind."

"Love it!"

The Community-Informed Policing Program is one of many opportunities that are available that enhances the relationship between the police department and Montgomery College, which is integral to positive community-building and elevation of quality of life.

Montgomery County Bill 17-21 also addresses future expanded educational and professional development opportunities for veteran police officers as well as for police cadets.

The Team



Sonia Y. W. Pruitt, Program Director

Criminal Justice

Professor Pruitt is an Associate Professor of Criminal Justice and a respected international law enforcement consultant. She is also a retired police captain--a 28-year veteran of the Montgomery County Police Department. Her focus is social justice issues, the intersectionality of race and policing, and engagement with marginalized communities.



Andrae L. Brown, Ph.D.

Psychology

Dr. Brown is an Associate Professor of Psychology as well as an internationally renowned expert in community-focused mental health. He develops and implements community-based gang, violence prevention, and intervention services; employs effective proactive peace-making responses to incidents of violence; and improves communication and collaboration between stakeholders, including first responders.



Ann Johnson, Ph.D.

Sociology

Dr. Johnson is an Adjunct Professor of Sociology. Her academic areas of focus include social justice and equity, health and wellness, sports, and labor. Her body of research and career legacy includes a focus on civil unrest, community mental health, social services, and jail aversion strategies of problem-solving courts.



Ellen Olmstead

English and Reading

Professor Olmstead is an Associate Professor of English and Reading, and leads MC's Safe Zones, an informative and experiential training that allows participants to explore their knowledge and assumptions about LGBTQ+ people. She is an international expert committed to women and gender studies, issues of diversity, culturally responsive pedagogy, and inclusive curricula, and has done impactful work in the area of African Studies.



George E. Rice, III

Presidential Scholars

"Coach" George Rice is the Program Director of Presidential Scholars at Montgomery College, which works to increase the representation of African American men in high-demand careers. His background includes teaching, counseling, and advising of students, and he has served as the Director of Programming in the Office of Equity and Inclusion. His intent and focus is always mindfulness, authenticity, accountability, and teamwork.



Katya Salmi, Ph.D.

Sociology

Dr. Salmi is an Associate Professor of Sociology. She is a public sociologist with a focus on race, gender, and racialization, as well as structural issues relating to inequality, discrimination, and social justice. She also leads the training, The Journey Towards Becoming an Anti-Racist Institution, at Montgomery College.



Brandon C. S. Wallace, Ed.D.

Elementary/Secondary Education

Dr. Wallace is an Associate Professor working in the Department of Elementary/Secondary Education. His body of work includes the development of international curricula. He started his teaching career in the Baltimore City Public School system, and has an extensive background in teacher preparedness, Universal Design for Learning, and specialized education, behaviorism, and restorative justice.