

Written Public Hearing Comments on Police MOU
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I am very saddened by the violence police regularly enacted on Black Americans. I feel strongly that ACPS should follow the lead of Minneapolis Public Schools and other school districts and end the School Resource Unit program. It pains me to think that after all that has happened since the killing of George Floyd on May 25 that students - especially Black students - will eventually have to go to school with police officers in their building. Even in the best of times, police officers do not belong in schools. They are not adequately trained to work with children -- the 40-hour course that SROs are required to take is in no way sufficient training on how to support students. Police rather are trained to gather evidence to charge people with crimes which is not a mission that is consistent with the caring and supportive school environment that ACPS provides in so many ways. The current MOU between ACPS and APD does a lot to minimize and mitigate the harm that SROs can inflict on students, but I believe this just underscores the inappropriateness of their presence in schools. It is a tacit admission that the regular actions of police officers does not accord with the mission of schools.