

Public Hearing Comments on Police MOU

October 1, 2020

Marie Eberlein

Good afternoon, my name is Marie Eberlein. I am a resident of Alexandria and my husband is a teacher at TC Williams. I am speaking today to ask the school board to end the agreement between ACPS and the Alexandria Police Department and to invest any resources that are currently spent on the agreement in the students instead. Cops don't belong in schools.

Research on school resource officers in recent years has given us insight into what they achieve. We know, for example, that the presence of school resource officers leads to higher recorded crime rates in schools. We know that it leads to more severe responses to student behavior, including higher rates of student arrests. We know that the presence of school resource officers can lead to worse academic outcomes, including lower high school graduation rates. And we know that these harms disproportionately affect Black students.

We also know what school resource officers do not achieve. There is no evidence that they make schools safer. So it is extremely disappointing that the school district is considering a continued relationship with the police department. Particularly now that the effects of COVID-19 have reduced city resources and increased student needs, it is important that we make wise choices with the resources that are available. It is past time to stop investing in harm and

instead invest in ways that support our students.

References:

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