

Editor's Remarks

Spring Edition

The Informant is distributed three times a year and has a distribution list of close to 500. I want to thank Phil for getting *The Informant* out in a timely manner. I am trying to inform as many people as possible about what the MCCA AAA does. If anyone in the alumni association would like to submit an article, send to mccaaanews@gmail.com.

I want to welcome Alicson Knowland as our new Managing Editor. Alicson has a lot of experience in putting together newsletters and will do a fantastic job. I want to thank Stephanie Silva who has been our Managing Editor and wish her success in her new job.

Thank you
Ken Freeman
Editor in Chief
The Informant
MCCA AAA
kenfreeman49@gmail.com
H 301-948-1642
C 301-646-1056

Special Recognition

Walt Houser

We can't forget the outstanding contribution that Walt Houser has given as our webmaster for *The Informant*. The website committee has met numerous times to figure out how the new website should look and, being the tech guy that Walt is, the website is now very professional. I have given Walt ideas and so has other committee members, and Walt made it happen.

Ken Freeman, President, MCCA AAA, *Back to Basics*

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MCCAAA President's Remarks



MCCAAA President Ken Freeman

I want to congratulate and thank the board for all their hard work that they have done. Phil Gilbert kept us informed of our meetings and sent out emails and made copies whenever asked. Our finances were kept up to date and monthly reports and quarterly reports were given, thanks to our treasurer Terry Harbonic. Terry has decided to give this position to someone new after being our treasurer for 8-9 years. I cannot forget all the hard work that our Activities Officer Missi Johns and our Vice President Rachel Johns gave to this organization. Missi did all activities internally and externally as our Activities officer. I want to thank Missi for also taking the helm of our Care for Cops program. Thank you to Rachel as our V.P. for emailing, phone calls, and attending the Citizen Academy (C.A.) Graduation to improve our membership. We have gained 11 graduates from our last C.A. Graduation that joined our organization. Congratulations!!! Vivian Wolpers — who like, knows everyone — has done an excellent job in organizing our speakers.

Our organization is very thankful to Chief Marcus Jones for his support, not only for the Citizen Academy but the Alumni Association. The Chief will be retiring after 38 years with the MCPD. The MCCAAA hopes that the next chief will give us the same support. We will miss him and hope that his retirement will be healthy and that his wife won't put him on the "Honey Do List."

If you are not on the board, we would like to welcome you to volunteer for the open positions. Elections will be at our next meeting.

Respectfully submitted
Ken Freeman

We are accepting

Membership Renewals for 2024

via our website at www.mccaaa.org

Go to the top of the page that says Membership Form, then to the page bottom that says "Click Here for Membership Renewal Form" and print the PDF. Checks should be made out to MCCAAA for \$15.00. Bring to a membership meeting, or mail to:

MCCAAA
P.O. Box 8884
Gaithersburg, MD 20898-8884

MCCAAA Officers

President - Ken Freeman	Vice President - Rachel Johns
Activities Officer - Missi Johns	Program Officer - Vivian Wolpers
Secretary - Phil Gilbert	Treasurer - Terry Harbonic

MCPD Domestic Violence/Elder Abuse Unit Special Victims Investigations Division

Detective Sergeant Sun Cheung by Walt Houser

At our Thursday, February 15, 2024, meeting, Detective Sergeant Sun Cheung provided comprehensive information on domestic violence and abuse, including its definition, statistics, types, common signs, and resources for victims. Here's a summary of the key points:

What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behavior used to gain or maintain power over an intimate partner. It can take various forms, including physical, sexual, emotional, economic, psychological, and technological abuse.

Montgomery County Statistics

In 2022, there were 1,586 reported domestic violence incidents, with 269 felony cases and 1,317 misdemeanors. Approximately 150 domestic violence misdemeanors are prosecuted each year, and around 5,000 protective orders are served annually.

Victims of Domestic Violence

Anyone can be a victim of domestic violence, regardless of race, age, sexual orientation, religion, gender, socioeconomic background, or education level. It can occur in opposite-sex and same-sex relationships, whether married, living together, dating, or sharing a child.

Types of Domestic Violence/Abuse

Domestic violence can manifest in various forms, including physical violence, sexual violence, emotional abuse, economic abuse, psychological abuse, and technological abuse.

Common Signs of Abusive Behavior

Victims should document instances of domestic violence by keeping a journal, noting dates, times, and descriptions of incidents, and seeking medical care if necessary. It's also essential to file a police report and obtain protective orders or criminal charges.

Police Response and Protective Orders

When seeking help from the police, personal safety is the priority. The police may provide first aid for injuries, conduct interviews with the victim and aggressor, determine the primary aggressor, and make on-scene arrests if applicable.

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CDC Chart of Instances of Domestic Violence in the U.S.



Detective Sergeant Sun Cheoung makes a point.

(Detective Sergeant Sun Cheoung, continued)

Protective orders can be obtained to compel the respondent to refrain from committing certain acts against the petitioner.

You can file Peace/Protective Orders at the Maryland District Court Commissioner's Office. In Montgomery County:

191 East Jefferson Street, Rockville, MD 20850 (Open 24/7)

8552 2nd Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (8am - 12am)

Forms are also available at: mdcourts.gov/forms

Resources for Victims

Several resources are available for victims of domestic violence, including the Family Justice Center, Abused Persons Program, Crisis Center, and Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline. These resources offer crisis counseling, shelter, support, advocacy services, and emergency crisis evaluations.

Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline

1301 Piccard Drive, Rockville, MD 20850

(240) 777-3500

This reporting line takes calls and investigates reports of suspected child abuse and neglect, to ensure the safety of children. Reports can come from community members, family, school personnel and others. This hotline responds to calls about children living in Montgomery County.

Crisis Center

1301 Piccard Drive, Rockville, MD 20850

(240) 777-4000

The Crisis Center Provides free crisis services 24 hours a day/ 365 days a year. Services are provided by telephone or in person (no appointment is needed). The Mobile Crisis Team (MCT) provides on-scene emergency crisis evaluations for individuals who are experiencing a mental health crisis. Full crisis assessments and treatment referrals are provided for all types of crises, both psychiatric and situational. Four crisis beds are offered as an alternative to hospitalization for those who are uninsured or are insured within the public mental health system.

Filing Protective/Peace Orders and Criminal Charges

Victims can file protective or peace orders at the Maryland District Court Commissioners Office, with forms available online. The process involves visiting designated locations in Montgomery County during specified hours. These resources and information are vital for individuals affected by domestic violence to seek help, support, and protection from abuse.



MCAAA President thanks Sergeant Cheoung for his presentation.

Activities Officer's Report

We have packed Care for Cops bags to deliver to the 135 officers at the Silver Spring (3D) station and we plan to deliver the bags to the offices at the beginning of May! Thank you to everyone who helped us with this project. We are excited to pack and deliver bags to another district soon!

In addition, we are pleased to announce that we will be speaking at Chief Marcus Jones's retirement ceremony in June. During this event, we will express our appreciation for his support throughout his time as Chief, and we will wish him a happy retirement. To show our gratitude, we have put together a small gift to present to him as a token of the MCCAAs appreciation for his support.

We are thrilled to announce our participation in the upcoming Public Safety Day event with Sgt. Mullaney on Sunday, May 19, 2024. Our main goal is to promote the academy and encourage people to join the alumni association after completing the academy course. The event will take place at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds, and we hope to see you all there!

Thank you,
Missi Johns
MCCAAA Activities Officer



The Montgomery County Citizen Academy Alumni Association is raising money to support the Care for Cops Program

Reusable
MCCAAA Bags
2/\$5.00

License Plate
Holders
\$3.00

Challenge Coins
\$10.00

100% of the money raised will support the Care For Cops Program

Vice President's Report

I hope this message finds you well! We've had an excellent year so far, with some very interesting and informative speakers. I'm happy to report that we had a great turnout of graduates who joined the alumni association in the previous class.

I'm excited to announce that we will be attending Public Safety Day at the fairgrounds this year, alongside Sgt. Mullaney, to promote the academy. Our goal is to reach more members and encourage them to join the academy and eventually the alumni association.

Our next meeting is coming up soon, and I'm looking forward to seeing all of you there! If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to reach out. Your input is always appreciated!

Rachel Johns
MCCAAA - Vice President



Citizen Academy

by Sergeant John Mullaney

I would first like to thank the members of the MCCA for all the referrals I have received for the past few sessions of the Citizen Academy. I average about 30% of all the applicants come to me based upon your recommendations. I am truly humbled that you are still sharing your experiences with friends, neighbors, and coworkers and that your words are driving business my way.

Session 72 just graduated on April 15th, and it was a special class for Chief Marcus Jones as it will be the last class that graduates during his tenure as the Chief of the Montgomery County Police Department. After 38 years of devoted and faithful service to the community, Chief Jones is retiring from law enforcement. He will without a doubt be missed for his experience, expertise, and engagement with the members of our citizenry.

Session 73 begins on April 30th. For those alumni that attended more than 5 years ago, think about attending again as a refresher and to see how your police department has evolved with the times.

I am still trying to get the jail tours restarted and will let everyone know once that occurs. I know that we haven't been able to do the tours of the Montgomery County Correctional Facility since we went into the COVID lockdowns, and I realize how interesting that tour is to everyone.

Please stay safe as we go into the summer months and consider joining us at the Public Safety Appreciation Day on May 19th from 10am to 6pm at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds. If you make it to the event, stop by the table I will have set up and say hi.

Respectfully,
Sgt M



Graduates of Citizen Academy Session 72

To join the next Citizen Academy session, apply at
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/pol/jobs/citizen-academy.html

Meeting and Exceeding "The Gold Standard" in Public Safety: Insights from CALEA Accreditation

by Walt Houser

Ms. Tamera Bulla spoke to the MCCAAs at our meeting on Thursday, April 16, 2024.

Ms. Tamera Bulla, Deputy Director for the Policy and Planning Division, Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD), recently addressed the MCCAAs on the significance of achieving and surpassing the gold standard in public safety through accreditation. Specifically, Ms. Bulla shed light on the rigorous process conducted by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), an independent body established by four prominent law enforcement executive associations.

Before the inception of CALEA, the landscape of law enforcement policies often fluctuated with

changes in leadership. However, CALEA introduced a standardized framework, holding police departments nationwide to uniform national standards. Bulla, who brings over three decades of experience as a CALEA assessor, highlighted the resemblance of CALEA assessments to comprehensive inspections, emphasizing their critical role in ensuring adherence to these standards.

The Montgomery County Police Department's journey with accreditation dates back to 1993, and it has been assessed annually since then. This commitment places it among less than 5% of the nation's 17,000 law enforcement

agencies that are accredited.

So, what exactly are assessors like Bulla looking for during these evaluations? As Bulla explains, Accreditation is a voluntary internal process aimed at objectively verifying and maintaining high operational quality through periodic assessments conducted by an independent body. The benefits of CALEA accreditation are multifaceted, ranging from greater internal accountability and reduced risk exposure to increased community advocacy and support from governmental authorities.

During these assessments, every facet of the department's operations is scrutinized, including

"What you don't know... can hurt you!"

specific guidelines for personnel interactions with individuals suspected of mental health issues, training documentation, and procedures for internal affairs investigations. For instance, standards such as 1.3.8, which addresses the removal of employees from duty assignments following incidents resulting in death or serious physical injury, underscore the department's commitment to accountability and transparency.

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Ms. Bulla speaking to the MCCAAs

(Insights from CALEA Accreditation, continued)

Moreover, standards like 81.3.1 ensure robust security measures in the communications center, while 84.1.2 emphasizes the criticality of secure storage for evidentiary property. However, accreditation isn't a one-time achievement. It requires ongoing compliance, demonstrated through meticulous documentation, including citations, investigative reports, and public feedback.

Looking ahead, Bulla emphasized that each on-site assessment is expected to be more rigorous than the last. The process isn't just about meeting minimum requirements but continually striving for excellence in public safety. In conclusion, CALEA accreditation isn't merely about meeting standards; it's about surpassing them, ensuring that law enforcement agencies not only meet but exceed the gold standard in public safety. As Bulla aptly puts it, "What you don't know... can hurt you!" Hence, embracing accreditation isn't just a choice; it's necessary in today's dynamic law enforcement landscape.

Ms. Tamera Bulla is currently the Deputy Director of Policy and Planning for the Montgomery County Police Department in Maryland. She retired in 2022 after



Ms. Bulla gets a token of appreciation

serving as the Director of Research and Planning for the Howard County Police Department in Maryland, where she had served since 1994. Before that, Ms. Bulla managed police communications and accreditation duties with the Laurel Police Department in Laurel, Maryland.

Ms. Bulla has extensive experience managing policy, accreditation, grants, research, Legislation, PowerDMS administration, program development, and strategic planning. She is active with the Maryland Association of Police Planners, serving as President and Vice President. Ms. Bulla is also an established leader within the Chesapeake Region Law

Enforcement Accreditation Alliance (CRLEAA) where she has also served as President and Vice President. CRLEAA serves Maryland, Delaware, DC, and Virginia law enforcement agencies. She is also an active member of the International Association of Law Enforcement Planners. Ms. Bulla has been an Assessor and Team Leader for the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) since 2003, and a CRLEAA Assessor since 1994. As a CALEA Assessor, she has reviewed over 50 agencies across the country to ensure they met the highest standards set for the law enforcement profession.

Ms. Bulla is also trained and active with the public safety Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) and CISM services. In addition, she has been active in public safety since 1981, when she was a Lieutenant within the Montgomery County Maryland Fire and Rescue Service.

Embracing accreditation isn't just a choice; it's necessary in today's dynamic law enforcement landscape.

Greetings from Chief of Police Marcus Jones

May 15, 2024

Greetings Montgomery County Police Citizens Academy Alumni,

It is with mixed feelings of joy and sadness which I write this letter to all of you as I near the final days of my career as a Montgomery County Police Officer and as the Chief of Police. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve this community as well as be associated with great supporters such as you during my tenure. I could not have imagined what my career would have looked like when I began in 1985

I was eager to become a better police officer every day.

as a young 21-year-old who was very curious about law enforcement, who needed a job to help support my family. Memories of recruit school challenges and being assigned to the Germantown District (there were no numbered districts then like 5D) and working with many officers who were much older than me was eye opening. I was forced to learn fast, and I was eager to become a better police officer every day. I was fortunate to learn under great police supervision and senior officers who were dedicated servants and must have seen something special in me. They embraced and mentored me while I ventured in new assignments such as the Germantown Special Assignment Team and the Drug Enforcement Section in the Special Investigations Division. This occurred during the crack epidemic and Montgomery County had become home to many open-air drug markets which required eradication by dedicated men and women of our department. I would later become an expert witness for the State's Attorney's Office in narcotics trafficking.

Leadership positions were something I continued to



**Chief of Police Marcus G. Jones,
Montgomery County, Maryland**

strive for as time would continue, and I began studying for promotional exams. It was a difficult time as my family was growing and work demands were high, but I persevered and was able to be promoted to Corporal in 1995 and continued to rise through the ranks. As I would go from assignment to assignment as I climbed the ranks, I would experience several major events such as working as a Sergeant in Bethesda during 9/11 and the beginning of the Beltway Snipers. I would be transferred back to SID by Chief Moose amid this investigation one week before the suspects were captured.

For 19 years, I would work in assignments as a patrol officer to an investigator and be involved in many memorable investigations which I will never forget. I would then be the first Lieutenant which Chief Tom Manger would promote during his tenure as Chief of Police for Montgomery County.

(continued on next page)

(Greetings from Chief of Police Marcus Jones, continued)

In 2004, I began my journey in Police Administration for our department as a Lieutenant and having the opportunity to work in great assignments such as 6D, the Training Academy and, of course, SID as the Drug Enforcement Commander. One of my most significant accomplishments would be to lead the elimination of the last open-air drug market in Montgomery County, Damascus Gardens, with a project called the Drug Market Initiative. I would be promoted to the rank of Captain and working in assignments such as the Duty Commander, Director of Major Crimes, and the Commander of the 3rd District. The journey had carried me for 32 years at this point when I would have the opportunity to attend the FBI National Academy and be appointed a Unit Leader. It was quite an honor, and it would eventually help lead to my appointment of Assistant Chief as well as Chief of Police.

This fabulous adventure has allowed me to work with some of the finest people in law enforcement in Montgomery County, in Maryland, across the United States and beyond. I have met Presidents of the United States, great leaders in policing, and some of the greatest cops. I have also met phenomenal people in the community and my success would not have been possible if I had not received great support from community members who supported me and the profession. This includes the Montgomery County Police Citizens Academy Alumni Association, and I am forever grateful for your friendship and support. I wish all of you great health and best wishes and I know I will see you all somewhere around town soon.

God Bless!

Chief Marcus Jones

This fabulous adventure has allowed me to work with some of the finest people in law enforcement in Montgomery County, in Maryland, across the United States and beyond.



**Montgomery County,
Maryland's Chief of Police
Marcus G. Jones**

Thank you Chief Jones, for all your service and support!

Program Officer's Report



I have tried to find the most interesting speakers for our meetings this past year. The last two months we have learned about drones and the 911 call center. We learned a lot about how these areas operate and both were very interesting.

I am running again for Program Officer at our next meeting. I plan on having many surprises in store. I hope to see many of you at our meetings on the 3rd Thursday of each month, except for the summer months (June-August).

Vivian Wolpers
Program Officer

Member Spotlight: Walter Houser

Walter Houser, the webmaster for MCCCCA, brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our association. Born in Bloomington, Indiana, Walter spent his formative years there and in Riverdale, Maryland. He then studied in California and Massachusetts, giving him a diverse perspective on life.

His educational journey reflects a commitment to continuous learning and academic excellence. Walter holds degrees from respected institutions such as Pomona College, where he earned his BA in Government, and Georgetown University, where he obtained an MA in Economics. Additionally, he has an MA in International Relations from The Fletcher School at Tufts University and a certificate in Project Management at The George Washington University.

Throughout his career, Walter has worked in various fields, from agricultural economics to computer applications development, Federal IT systems management, webmastering, and cybersecurity engineering and management.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, he taught two cybersecurity classes at Thomas Edison High School. He also consults with the Montgomery County Public School system's IT Foundation to bring innovative curricula into the system.



Walter Houser at a booth supporting the Keeping Seniors Safe program

Walter's involvement in the Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD) began with the Keeping Seniors Safe Program, sparked by a presentation by a family friend. Drawing upon his extensive background in IT and cybersecurity, he embarked on implementing an initiative for cybercrime prevention in the MCPD.

In his free time, Walter enjoys listening to audiobooks on history, biography, science fiction, economics, politics, and psychology. He and his wife, Celeste, reside in Potomac. Their children and grandchildren live in the Washington, D.C., region. Additionally, Walter was once active in Toastmasters International, achieving Advanced Communicator Silver and Advanced Leader Bronze awards.

Photo Gallery



Det Dave Walsh, Missi, Vivian Wolpers, and Commander Amy Daum from 2D delivery



Keyman of the Year
Phil Gilbert, Secretary



Presidential Award of Honor
Missi Johns, Activities Officer



Lt Doug Miller, Vivian Wolpers



Board member of the Year
Vivian Wolpers, Program Officer



Presidential Award of Honor
Terry Harbonic, Treasurer



Presidential Award of Honor
Rachel Johns, Vice President

Treasurer's Report

This report covers the period of November 1, 2023 through April 30, 2024

Beginning Balance:	\$5784.68
Deposits:	
11/20/23	\$ 379.00
12/29/23	\$ 90.00
1/18/24	\$ 45.00
1/26/24	\$ 60.00
2/1/24	\$ 245.00
2/14/24	\$ 15.00
2/22/24	\$ 195.00
3/14/24	\$ 45.00
3/28/24	\$ 110.00
4/17/24	\$ 150.00
4/18/24	\$ 30.00
4/19/24	\$ 60.00
Total deposits:	\$1424.00
Subtotal:	\$7208.68
Expenses:	
11/3/23, check 518, to Ken Freeman for T's	\$ 70.00
1/16/23, check 519, to Melissa Johns for Care for Cops supplies	\$ 467.39
12/21/23, check 520, to Vivian Wolpers for Care for Cops supplies	\$ 99.40
Total expenses:	\$ 636.79
Ending Balance:	\$6571.89



This is my last treasurer's report for the MCCA AAA. I am retiring after 9 years in that post. It has been a pleasure to handle the finances and watch the association grow.

We currently have 44 paid members which is down from our usual count of close to 100. We have room for more members so if you know someone who completed the academy and is not a member, please nudge them to join. They won't be sorry they did.

Respectfully submitted,
Terry J. Harbonic, Treasurer, MCCA AAA

The Informant

The Informant is published by the MCCA AAA three times a year. Its purpose is to inform and engage MCCA AAA membership and the Montgomery County community.

Editor in Chief

Ken Freeman

Managing Editor

Alicson Knowland

Business Editor

Rob Loewy

Photographer

Elaine Wainscott

Contact

mccaaanews@gmail.com

The Informant welcomes submissions from the MCCA AAA membership, the Montgomery County Police Department, and the broader Montgomery County community. Submission does not guarantee publication. *The Informant* reserves the right to edit for length, clarity, style, and tone.