

Written Testimony Lt. Peter Davidov, MCPD

SB 1075 Criminal Law – Distribution of Heroin or Fentanyl Causing Serious Bodily Injury or Death (Victoria and Scottie’s Law)

Montgomery County Opioid Overdoses: Year-End

- Please note opioid overdose data only includes fatal and non-fatal overdoses that MCPD Special investigations Division personnel were notified of.
- Includes victims of all ages.
- Includes overdoses that occurred between January 1 and December 31, each year.
- 2023 fatal overdoses may include suspected incidents with toxicology reports pending- these numbers may change.

Overdoses Year-End	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Percent Change 2022-2023
Fatal	51	60	70	46	65	90	109	81	96	+19%
Non-Fatal	56	154	157	131	125	171	240	190	250	+32%
Grand Total	107	214	227	177	190	261	349	271	346	+28%

Montgomery County Youth Opioid Overdoses: Year-End

- Please note youth opioid overdose data only includes fatal and non-fatal overdoses that MCPD Special investigations Division personnel were notified of.
- Includes victims under the age of 21 years.
- Includes overdoses that occurred between January 1 and December 31, each year.
- 2023 fatal overdoses may include suspected incidents with toxicology reports pending- these numbers may change.

Youth Overdoses Year-End	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Percent Change 2022-2023
Fatal	1	1	0	1	2	3	5	11	11	-----
Non-Fatal	2	0	0	0	1	14	22	37	86	+132%
Grand Total	3	1	0	1	3	17	27	48	97	+102%

My name is Lt. Peter Davidov. I am the Deputy Director of the Special Investigations Division of the Montgomery County Police Department. I am also here as a father who lost his stepson to Fentanyl poisoning less than a year ago. Beginning in 2016 we have seen changes in drug culture and the increasing prevalence of fentanyl in illegally sold drugs. This has resulted in a vast increase in overdoses compared to 2015 when fentanyl wasn't prevalent. We are seeing overdoses including fatal overdoses all too frequently. People from all walks of life are falling prey to addiction and death. Current legislation was not designed to address this level of damage to our community. Particularly disturbing, is the increase in youth overdoses. MCPD defines youth overdoses as those under 21. In 2015 we had a total of 3 youth overdoses in Montgomery County with one being fatal. By 2022 they had risen to 48 with 11 fatal overdoses. In 2023 we have 97 youth overdoses including 11 fatal overdoses. That is an 102% increase in just one year. Fentanyl has taken over the illicit pill market. It is shaped to look like prescription opioids such as Percocet or Adderall and is indistinguishable from legitimate pharmaceuticals. It is also being found in found in other street drugs such as cannabis and cocaine. Data from the DEA indicates that 2 of every 5 fentanyl pills contains a potentially lethal dose. By 2022, Fentanyl, measured by units of doses, represented 78.9 % of seizures in the HIDTA region encompassing Maryland. Investigations show that dealers know that they are selling fentanyl to users who unbelievably are actively seeking fentanyl to get high. Community education and efforts and the introduction of NARCAN

(Nalaxone) have saved some lives but they by themselves cannot stem this tide. Individuals who purvey fentanyl face stiffer penalties for drug distribution than they do for their product taking someone's life. This legislation will allow for penalties appropriate to the crime and allow for the prosecution of multiple levels of drug dealers when they sell a product causes death and injury. Please give us the tools that we as law enforcement need to deter this behavior and hold those who make life so cheap accountable. For these reasons, the Montgomery County Police Department requests a **FAVORABLE** Report on SB 1075. Thank you.