



DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

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Statement of Chief Marcus Jones
Montgomery County Department of Police

In Support of HB 0318
The Safe Carrier Act
January 26, 2024

In the past six months, there have been multiple well-publicized local incidents of mail carriers being robbed of USPS property, including being violently robbed of their arrow keys. Investigators have discovered that arrow keys can be sold or traded for a significant profit and are a highly sought-after commodity among criminal entities.

An arrow key is one of the most powerful tools in an identity thief's arsenal. An arrow key allows a thief to open any blue US Post box, steal letters from within, and then use those stolen letters and bills to drain bank accounts, committing fraud and identity theft, most commonly against our vulnerable older populations.

While these offenses have traditionally been federal violations, Delegate Solomon proposes a local-level law, House Bill 0318, the Safe Carrier Act, that will enable Maryland law enforcement officials to charge offenders at the local level without always requiring the assistance of our Federal US Postal Service partners.

From the perspective of our Maryland victims, mail carriers, and identity theft victims, this alternate option enhances the chances of suspects being held accountable. While current police department staffing may not allow us to immediately utilize the option, having the ability to do so in the future, when department staffing levels improve, will be an excellent tool for investigators and a viable alternative option for residents and victims.

For these reasons, the Montgomery County Department of Police supports HB 0318, The Safe Carrier Act.