



# Montgomery County

## Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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**HB 475**

**DATE: February 2, 2021**

**SPONSOR: Delegate Attar**

**ASSIGNED TO: Environment and Transportation**

**CONTACT PERSON: Sara Morningstar (Sara.Morningstar@montgomerycountymd.gov)**

**POSITION: OPPOSE (Montgomery County Department of Police)**

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### **Speed Monitoring Systems in School Zones – Operation Times – Limitation**

House Bill 475 would restrict speed monitoring systems in school zones to operating only during the “regular school year.”

Montgomery County Department of Police (MCPD) currently operates speed cameras in school zones year-round. The cameras are active Monday through Friday between 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., in accordance with State law. For public safety reasons, MCPD opposes limiting the operation of these cameras. Schools throughout the County are used outside the normal school year for summer school classes, driver’s education training, sporting events, community events, and other youth activities. The current speed camera monitoring system protects these school users as well as students, faculty, staff, and parents during the regular school year. It is also predictable to drivers, who are on notice that speed cameras in school zones are operational every weekday. The proposed bill could create driver confusion and reduce the deterrent effect of the speed monitoring system. It would require the administrators of the speed camera system to determine what constitutes the “regular school year” which is not defined in the proposed legislation.

For these reasons, the Montgomery County Department of Police opposes HB 475 and would urge the Committee to adopt an unfavorable report on the bill.