



Fraternal Order of Police
Montgomery County Lodge 35

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March 27, 2026

TESTIMONY OF LEE HOLLAND
PRESIDENT, MONTGOMERY COUNTY FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE LODGE 35
BEFORE THE SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE
SENATE BILL 520 – FAVORABLE

Chair Guzzone and Honorable Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Montgomery County Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 35, I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 520.

Senate Bill 520 provides a narrowly tailored, common-sense tool to ensure that counties—particularly charter counties like Montgomery County—can adequately fund core public safety services when existing charter-imposed tax limitations would otherwise constrain those investments. As drafted, the bill authorizes a county council, by majority vote, to exceed charter tax caps specifically for the purpose of funding an approved public safety budget.

For our members on the front lines, this legislation is not about abstract fiscal policy—it is about staffing, response times, officer safety, and the ability to meet growing public safety demands in real time.

Montgomery County continues to experience increasing service demands, evolving public safety challenges, and heightened expectations for law enforcement professionalism and responsiveness. At the same time, structural fiscal constraints can prevent local leaders from making necessary investments in:

- Hiring and retaining sworn officers
- Competitive compensation to address recruitment and attrition
- Modern equipment, training, and technology
- Community policing and specialized response units

SB 520 creates a responsible and accountable pathway to address these needs. Importantly, the bill:

- Requires an affirmative vote of the elected county council
- Limits the use of additional revenue specifically to public safety purposes
- Preserves existing education funding protections while allowing flexibility for public safety funding priorities

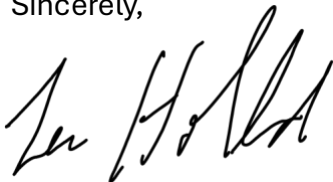
This is a balanced approach that respects local governance while ensuring that public safety is not compromised by rigid fiscal caps that do not reflect current realities.

From a law enforcement perspective, underfunding public safety carries real consequences. It leads to increased overtime, burnout, delayed response times, and diminished proactive policing—all of which ultimately impact community safety and officer well-being.

SB 520 does not mandate tax increases. It simply gives local elected officials the option to act when necessary to protect public safety.

For these reasons, the Montgomery County Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 35 respectfully urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 520.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lee Holland". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lee Holland

President

Montgomery County Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 35