



NEWS RELEASE

Prince George's County Public Schools • www.pgcps.org
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BOARD CHAIR RELEASES STATEMENT ON SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

UPPER MARLBORO, MD – Today, Prince George's County Board of Education Chair Dr. Alvin Thornton released the following statement:

"Yesterday evening, the Board of Education decided to table Board of Education agenda item 8.1 – Removal of School Resource Officers (SROs) from Prince George's County Public Schools – until September 14, 2020. The Board concluded that additional time was needed to consider the proposal and secure additional input from the community.

"In deciding to table the proposal, the Board of Education considered responses from the community and its elected representatives indicating support and opposition to the proposal to remove SROs from our school system.

"I will refer the matter back to the Board's Operations, Budget and Fiscal Affairs Committee to: (1) evaluate and assess the role of SROs in the school system and their alignment with PGCPS security services; (2) seek additional school administrator, staff, parent, student and community input regarding the use of SROs; and (3) work with the CEO to develop a report that will demonstrate how PGCPS budgets devoted to mental health, counselor, social services, special needs and related services are deployed strategically to achieved desired student development needs.

"I will ask the Board of Education to authorize me as Board Chair to immediately begin facilitating the Board's engagement with State, County and municipal leaders to develop comprehensive recommendations for modifying the policing function in the community and the Prince George's County Public Schools as the context in which SRO and school security services take place."