June 17, 2021

To Whom It May Concern;

On behalf of the Twinbrook Community Association (TCA), we strongly support the Rockville City Police Department (RCPD) to bring the Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE) Project to our City.

The Twinbrook neighborhood of Rockville, Maryland, has partnered effectively with the RCPD on a variety of enforcement issues. We value and appreciate their community-focused support for neighborhoods as it has been an effective tool of engagement in Twinbrook. When our community sees law enforcement as a partner in public safety, our community stays safer and future interactions have the capacity for peaceful resolutions.

Our community is arguably the most diverse in Rockville. We are comprised of people from all walks of life - young and old, recent immigrants and long-time residents, and a wide swath of races, religions, sexuality, and gender expression. As a community organization, we consistently urge our neighbors to reach out to RCPD no matter what the issue is. We can only do this, quite honestly, if the community feels safe to do so. Unfortunately, many residents have had problematic interactions with law enforcement in other jurisdictions so it takes more to reassure them that it is safe to report issues of concern.

The ABLE program is an important first step toward rebuilding that trust. If community members know that law enforcement in Rockville is trained to prevent police officer misconduct and error, they will feel safer to engage and report potential crimes. After the events in the last year, from the murder of George Floyd to the killing of Daunte Wright in Minnesota as well as more recent issues in Ocean City, Maryland, there is greater distrust of law enforcement overall. The ABLE program has the capability to begin to chip away at this.

Thank you for offering this invaluable program to City police departments. We strongly endorse Rockville City Police Department's efforts to bring ABLE to Rockville.

Sincerely,

Mike Stein, President
Twinbrook Community Association