This isn't truly about money but rather about some with political aspirations seeking “power over people vs empowering people.” Despite being underfunded, underappreciated, and understaffed, CCSO continues to patrol our streets as well as staying actively involved in the community.

For example, Sheriff has always supported body cams for officers but not at the expense of slashing his current budget. CCSO has Security Resource Officers in most if not all our schools with overwhelming community support. CCSO offers Youth Programs such as Teen Court, Cadet Program, Criminal Justice Program, and Project Life Saver where the CCSO offers a way to easy anxiety for the families of children and adults with autism, Alzheimer’s or related conditions and disorders. CCSO offers a Citizen Police Academy that most Blacks fail to apply for where approximately 80% of the participants are White. Lastly, although there has been a slight spike in violent crimes, the CCSO solved at least 90% or more of these cases, States’ Attorney Office successfully prosecuted the cases, and the Detention center manages to ensure inmates are safe and provided for.

Now we want to defund or reallocate funding with the expectation crime will decrease, recruiting/retaining officers will increase, and the solvent rate will stay above 90%?

My advice to the commissioners, citizens, or organizations that are truly working to make a difference in the community is not to allow certain people or organizations to feed you misleading and/or false claims about the CCSO. In addition, I encourage these same people and/or organizations that continuously criticize our current criminal justice system to at least have the professional courtesy/respect to arrange a meeting to discuss these claims.  So, this is not about funding but more to do with bruised egos and politically and/or professional aspirations for some who want you to agree with them 100% of time. Unfortunately, we (being Blacks) have a hard time co-existing among ourselves and will continue to embrace the “Crab-In-The Barrel” mentality while creating a solution for a problem that simply doesn't exist.

Commissioner you have a daunting task in how best to allocate appropriate and necessary funds to all levels of government. I implore you to fully fund the CCSO, CCCO, and State’s Attorney’s Office for the safety of our citizens.

Respectfully submitted,

Derrick Terry

Waldorf, MD