

**To:** Montgomery College Community  
**From:** DeRionne Pollard, President  
**Subject:** **Protest, Policing, and Persistence**  
**Date:** June 10, 2020

Good afternoon, Raptors. I hope this first week of classes is progressing smoothly.

I continue to be proud of all the dialogues and activities that are springing up at the College and in our community. In addition to today's scheduled [Peer2Peer event](#) on "Race-Based Trauma and Its Impact on Student College Persistence," there is an online watch party for the documentary, [Stay Woke: The Black Lives Matter Movement](#), coming up on June 19. Local government is also providing an opportunity for a discussion of policing practices: Montgomery County is hosting a [virtual town hall meeting](#) on June 11 with local law enforcement to discuss tensions in the community and the impact of the killing of George Floyd by Minnesota police. I encourage you to participate in any of these you can.

As we hear more in the media about Montgomery County "reopening," I want to assure you that none of these steps automatically triggers a comprehensive "reopening" of Montgomery College. The College makes decisions about its status independently, based upon the health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff. Currently we are engaged in a very intentional, diligent process of planning for proper safeguards and policy changes that would be required for on-site work by eligible employees. These decisions include careful human resources considerations, policy-changes, infection control protocols, equipment needs, and special health vulnerabilities of some students and employees. Many processes require in-depth coordination from facilities, public safety, IT, finances, academic regulations, and our labor unions. That work is proceeding productively and I look forward to sharing more of it near our June 30 re-assessment date for the College. For those of you with K-12 aged children, we are closely monitoring MCPS's planning for the fall school year and that is an important component in our decision-making.

I realize these are uncertain times, but the College is working faithfully to address all the issues that arise in an organization of our size, while adhering to the guiding [principles](#) you can see on the Resilient MC website. Any changes to the Colleges' emergency remote status will be thoroughly carefully planned, and communicated, and of course, radically inclusive.

Thank you again for your commitment to our students—and to each other—in these critical times.