



**Remarks for Prince George's County Executive Angela D. Alsobrooks
New Chief of Police Press Conference**

- Good morning everyone. Thank you all so much for joining and tuning in.
- As you know, we have been in the process of conducting a thorough and comprehensive national search for our next Chief of Police over the past nine months, one that has involved input from our community.
- Early on in the process, we sent out a survey which was open for six weeks to learn more about what residents wanted to see in the next Chief of Police. Through that, we learned several things.
- First, our residents identified the top issues for public safety in our County, and the top two were trust and engagement with the community, as well as more personal connections with the police officers serving our neighborhoods.
- In addition, we asked our residents what the top qualities were they wanted to see in the next Chief. The top three included taking ownership of the Department's actions, having a high level of integrity, and demonstrating a sincere concern for the community.
- Finally, we asked what kind of experience the next Chief should have. The top experiences, by and large, included a track record of building and maintaining community relationships, an ability to develop and implement innovative solutions, and have management experience in a jurisdiction similar in size to Prince George's.

- The talent acquisition firm that we hired also conducted additional community outreach, including meetings with members of our Police Department, the leadership of our Police Reform Work Group, HOA and civic associations, our faith community, and the leadership of the County Council.
- We reviewed all of this information from the community and kept it at the top of mind as we conducted a thorough interview process to narrow down our candidates, and I met personally with all of our finalists to make sure we were choosing the right person to meet this critical moment for our County.
- After this long and thorough process, I am very proud to announce today that I have selected Mr. Malik Aziz, Deputy Chief of Police for the Police Department in Dallas, Texas, to be our next Chief of Police and lead our Police Department into the future.
- Deputy Chief Aziz has been with the Dallas Police Department for 29 years, rising through the ranks to serve in his current role as Deputy Chief. Through that time, he has held positions that allowed him to oversee a variety of divisions within the police department, and touch almost every aspect of policing.
- One of the areas of Deputy Chief Aziz's background that particularly stuck out to me was his consistent focus and leadership in the area of community policing. As I mentioned, the ability to strengthen police and community relations was something we found early on was a skill set our residents desired.
- While our department has been working to strengthen ties between the community and the officers who patrol their streets, we know there are improvements that can be made. Deputy Chief Aziz's background will be instrumental in helping us implement a comprehensive community policing model, as he is already a national expert in this field.
- Even more, while focused on community policing, he also maintained a strong record of crime reduction in the divisions that he oversaw, which is something that is also critical to our Police Department and our community.

- Deputy Chief Aziz also has leadership experience nationally, as the former National Chairman and Executive Director of the National Black Police Association. His leadership in the area of community policing also allowed him to serve as a presenter to the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing. And that is on top of serving as the Deputy Chief for one of the top ten largest police departments in the nation.
- Another area that was important in this selection was making sure that our next Chief of Police would fully support the continued implementation of the 46 recommendations from our Police Reform Work Group that we announced earlier this year.
- I've said before, and I will say it again, we have an outstanding Police Department filled with amazing men and women who come to work every day and honorably serve our community. However, we also know that we have issues in our Department, similar to other departments across the nation. And we are not afraid to address those issues and continue to make our Department even better.
- Deputy Chief Aziz has been a strong advocate for reform in his current role with the Dallas Police Department and through his advocacy at the national level. I am confident he will continue working with us on these critical reforms that we are already implementing, and I know he will find additional ways to bring transformative change to our Department.
- Overall, I believe that Deputy Chief Aziz will bring a fresh perspective to our Department, and I truly cannot wait for Prince Georgians to get to know him. In the final round of interviews, I met personally with all of our candidates, getting to know them and asking them tough questions about why they wanted to serve Prince George's County and what they could bring to our Police Department and our community.
- What I can tell you is that I was absolutely blown away by Deputy Chief Aziz. He has all of the qualities that I, our Police Department, and our community were looking for in our next Chief of Police.
- I'll be quite honest and tell you after that final interview, I knew he was the right choice and wanted to move as quickly as possible, because I absolutely did not want to lose him to another jurisdiction when he could bring so much to our County.

- You see, Deputy Chief Aziz strikes the perfect balance of both caring for the officers under his supervision and caring for the community members that he serves. He strives to make sure the best interests of the Department and the community are always met, because they are not mutually exclusive.
- Once Deputy Chief Aziz officially takes over, he has assured us he will work hard to meet with our Department and the community to get to know you and earn your trust.
- And I know that once Prince Georgians and the men and women of our department get to know him as I have, they will see why he is the perfect person to lead our Police Department to new heights.
- Before I wrap up, I would be remiss if I did not express my gratitude to Interim Chief Hector Velez, who will continue to serve in this role until Deputy Chief Aziz takes over on May 9th.
- I want to extend my sincerest thanks to Interim Chief Velez for agreeing to serve as Interim Chief as we conducted this search process. He has been a dedicated member of this Department and has served with honor and distinction during a truly unprecedented time.
- We have been incredibly fortunate to have him guide our Department over these past nine months, and we want to again thank him for his dedication and service to our community.
- Now, I would like to welcome County Council Chair Calvin Hawkins to provide some brief remarks.
- Thank you.