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From: andreaqbernardo@comcast.net

To: "councilmember andrews" <councilmember.andrews@montgomerycountymd.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, October 20, 2010 7:51:02 PM

Subject: Your comments on WTOP about crossing guard salaries

Phil,

I am so disappointed in you, and I want an apology--the gender bias here is beyond offensive. I just received your campaign solicitation letter--I'm sure you'll understand why I cannot contribute this time. I posted the below in the comments to WTOP's website, and I sent it to the news desk, as well.

Andrea Q. Bernardo

I am stunned that WTOP, Kate Ryan, and Council Member Phil Andrews would attack crossing guards—where do I start? The obvious gender bias or the potential for dead children? In this case, I'm not sure what is worse??!! MCPD has already cut the EFO's (police officers assigned to schools). Now they want to cut crossing guards? Several years ago, parents of Robert Frost Middle school staged a protest to get the crossing guard on Wootton Parkway back. WTOP, as well as other media outlets, covered the event because it was newsworthy—and the need for crossing guards on the dangerous roads of MC was obvious. Now, for another news event, WTOP sees fit to attack crossing guard salaries.

They work for about an hour to an hour and half at each school twice a day. They often work at a middle school for one shift and then get to an elementary school for another shift—if the school opening and closing times work and the distance can be driven in the gap time. They use their own vehicles—and I don't think they get any allowance for that. They need to live near the schools—even if the neighborhood is pricey—because they commute four times a day, not twice a day, like the rest of us. They can't do many other jobs between the opening and closing of schools, because the gap time and commuting times would make it impossible to engage in any other work activity.

The drivers in MC think they are above the law, and the crossing guards have to be out there no matter what the weather. I challenge any griper on this comment line to do that job just one day in December!!

The gender bias is beyond offensive—and I expect Phil Andrews to publicly apologize to all of the women, myself included, who have contributed to his campaigns and stood at the polls for him. Why is he attacking the traditional women's jobs? Before he does, he needs to look at pay for all of Montgomery County. I am sure there are far more overpaid men in Montgomery County—making more than \$40/hour, doing less for the safety of our children.

Shame on you Phil Andrews!!