

# Brothers Before Others Inc.

P.O. Box 236  
Brodheadsville, PA 18322  
Michael J. Burke, President



Contact: Rob O'Donnell  
Director of Media & Business Relations  
Email: [rob@brothersbeforeothers.org](mailto:rob@brothersbeforeothers.org)  
Website: [brothersbeforeothers.org](http://brothersbeforeothers.org)

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## PRESS RELEASE

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In response to the outrageous false rhetoric by Montgomery County Leadership about the Blue Line Flag, Brothers Before Others, a National certified 501(c)(3) Law Enforcement Support Charity with over 3000 members, will be present at the Montgomery County Police Department's 5<sup>th</sup> District on Friday November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 12pm EST, to present 75 Blue Line Flags free to any active MCPD officer as a sign of support.

Late last week, Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich made statements that the Blue Line Flag was divisive and would not be permitted to be displayed in any County facility. A custom wooden Blue Line Flag was created by a young boy and his father, both residents of the county, and was gifted to the MCPD's 5<sup>th</sup> District for First Responders Appreciation Day. This flag was well received by the officers of the 5<sup>th</sup> District and was prominently featured in social media. This provoked a critical response from anti-police activists who attempted to incorrectly portray the origins and meaning of the Flag. This incorrect response was then repeated and amplified by Executive Elrich, when he ordered that the wooden Blue Line Flag would not be displayed because of its alleged 'divisiveness', a supposition that is not borne out by the actual history of the flag.

Nels Dickmann Anderson wrote a poem called "The Thin Blue Line" in 1911, referring to the U.S. Army's blue uniforms of the time, and alluding to the "Thin Red Line", a famous formation of the British Army during the Crimean War. The modern concept & its association with police officers is said to trace back to the 1950's and 60's, although its widespread use is attributed to a 1988 documentary by Errol Morris that explored the cultural brotherhood of policing.

We thank Governor Larry Hogan who immediately came out publicly to denounce any executive who wishes to re-write the history and meaning of the Blue Line Flag, and who offered to proudly display the original flag at the State Capital in Annapolis.

We cordially invite the Governor to join us this Friday November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 12pm EST, at the MCPD 5<sup>th</sup> District, 20000 Aircraft Drive, Germantown, Maryland 20874. We will be present to distribute 75 Blue Line Flags to the Men and Women of the Montgomery County Police Department as a sign of National Support and recognition to their service to the great community of Montgomery County.

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