

# The Frederick News-Post

## Are Delaney, Van Hollen having second thoughts?

By Walter Olson  
August 27, 2014

This is regarding your Aug. 19 story “Local police receive free surplus military equipment.”

So thanks to the Pentagon surplus program, the city of Frederick got an armored military vehicle that it seldom if ever uses (but I’ll bet pays good money to maintain) while Brunswick got a bunch of surplus Glock handguns (since there’s a very efficient market in used guns, the main effect of that transfer would be to deprive federal taxpayers of the value of a readily resalable commodity so as to give the Brunswick force more guns than it would have chosen to acquire on its own dime).

It could be worse, of course: In some other parts of the country you see police departments fitted out like occupying armies with behavior to match. In June the U.S. House of Representatives had a chance to strike a blow against the militarization of America’s police forces by way of an amendment to discontinue the Pentagon surplus program.

Unfortunately, the eight-member Maryland House delegation gave the amendment only two votes in support, and both members from this area, Democratic Reps. John Delaney and Chris Van Hollen, voted to continue this wasteful and dangerous program.

I wonder whether the events in Ferguson, Missouri, have done anything to change their minds.

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