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**Testimony in Support of Supplemental Appropriation - Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice
July 28, 2020 Public Hearing
To: Montgomery County Council
From: Jesse Glickstein**

My name is Jesse Glickstein. I live in Takoma Park, Maryland in District 5. This testimony is in support of the Montgomery County Council approving the proposed \$260,961 appropriation for staffing and operating expenses for the Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice. I am testifying on behalf of myself.

The County took an important step when it created the Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice in 2019. I support the core function of this newly created Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice in order to ensure that there is a structure and accountability process in place for addressing racial disparities in Montgomery County.

There is a phrase in the Talmud (the central text of Rabbinic Judaism and the primary source of Jewish religious law and Jewish theology), which states: *Ein kemach, ein Torah; ein Torah, ein kemach* — If there is no food, there is no Torah; if there is no Torah, there is no food.

The same applies to this consideration for appropriations of funds. Without appropriating the necessary financial resources (i.e. food) to allow the Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice to carry out its mission, there will be no actual Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice. It will just be a name and an empty vessel.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Montgomery County Council to approve the proposed \$260,961 appropriation for staffing and operating expenses for the Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice.

Regards,

Jesse Glickstein