

Good morning, County Council President Tom Hucker, Vice President Gabe Albornoz and Council members.

My name is Dzigbordi Egbenya. My family and I are proud members of the Gaithersburg community for 26 years and are beneficiaries of Interfaith Works for our living condition and comfort.

I sincerely appreciate all you have already done by approving \$50 million construction fund for public-private housing model.

There are a few more items I would ask you to support:

1. Continued funding for Service (Food) HUBS . Many people in our community go hungry.
2. More funding for affordable housing, and encourage more ownership and less renting.
3. Adjustments for HHS contracts - which need to be 3%, so that staff earn a living wage.
4. And there is needed support for
 - a. the Clothing Center \$60,000
 - b. support for the Interfaith Works Connections program. \$40,000
 - c. support for the Vocational Services Program. \$66,000
5. And there needs to be a focus on Equity and Social Justice. For example increase vaccination efforts for the black and brown communities.
6. And the County needs to address the digital divide. Many of my neighbors can't afford internet.

With your support to Interfaith Works they can keep providing the needed help to achieve a better livelihood for my family and others who depend on Interfaith Works.

Thank you