

From: [Joan Cohen](mailto:Joan.Cohen@montgomerycountymd.gov)
To: County.Council@montgomerycountymd.gov
Cc: [Aspen Association](mailto:Aspen.Association@montgomerycountymd.gov); aspenhilladvocates@gmail.com
Subject: Written testimony for Public Hearing on Thrive Montgomery 2050 on June 17, 2021
Date: Friday, June 11, 2021 10:55:36 PM

Honorable Councilmembers:

Thrive Montgomery 2050 has not been properly publicized to County residents, nor is it appropriate to create programs and policies that support Thrive's initiatives and long term goals prior to Thrive's formal vetting and approvals. Where are the ethics in such County shenanigans!?!

Attainable housing by Planning Board admittance will NOT be affordable based upon location; current construction and labor costs; and the current market. HEAT includes participants who will directly benefit from the proposed housing plans.

County residents have been literally fighting for their physical, medical, and financial lives for over a year. Most are not only unaware of the impact of Attainable/Missing Middle Housing; but at this point are too stressed and distracted to care. Your timing is perfect to please the developers who have supported your candidacy and political well-being in the past. Your timing is perilous for the residents living in the designated growth sectors.

What's the hurry? Is it beneficial to your political lives to cram this neighborhood tragic strategy without adequately hearing from or consulting with the residents it will surely impact? Many of the single-family homes located in the residential neighborhoods impacted by the costly townhomes and multiple dwelling units described ARE LESS EXPENSIVE in the current market THAN THE NEW CONSTRUCTIONS YOU ARE SUPPORTING! Where's the logic in your plan? How will what you propose enhance equity and ownership?

There is no justification for pushing such high stake changes through at this time in the County's pandemic, financial, academic, medical, and financially tumultuous time. Where is the concern for MC citizens you professed so loudly when you ran for the council member position?

You should be ashamed! Rest assured, the few of us who are aware of this travesty will do everything possible to stop this sham in its tracks and encourage enough time for residents to completely understand the future of their neighborhoods and their County.