

Testimony to Montgomery Council re: THRIVE

June 29, 2021

Good evening Council members!

I'm Dave Sears. I've lived in Montgomery County for nearly half a century – first in Silver Spring in an apartment; now in Bethesda in a single family house.

One of the things I really like about THRIVE is the push to offer many more housing options throughout the county. So when I want to live in a pleasant walkable mixed use mixed income neighborhood I can do so – whether or not an apartment or house better suits my lifestyle and my budget.

Everyone who wants to live in Montgomery County should be able to find a comfortable and affordable place to live. THRIVE's push to offer Attainable Housing throughout the county is exactly what we need to give more households more viable housing choices in more neighborhoods.

THRIVE's overall embrace of Smart Growth principles is welcome and commendable!

We need to move the county away from our current over-dependence on cars. Thus, we need to strengthen the ability of more folks to get where they want/need to go without always having to rely on the automobile. This means land use and transportation strategies that expand viable options for transit, walking, and biking.

I'd also like commend THRIVE's emphasis on good design. Our success as a county will depend, in part, upon providing a pleasant and fun place to live, work, and play. Good design of buildings and communities will contribute to that success.

In sum, I urge the Council to support THRIVE. This plan will serve as the foundation for Montgomery County's vibrant future.

Dave Sears

Bethesda MD