

My name is Jessica Leight and I live with my family in East Bethesda. We moved to Montgomery County relatively recently and have found it to be a wonderful place to live and work, but I'm very aware of the substantial and escalating housing costs that continue to make it challenging for many other families to find a home. This reflects a complex history of zoning that has disproportionately disadvantaged African-American and other minority families.

I would like to enthusiastically support Thrive 2050. I'd like to see the county become denser and offer a wider variety of housing. I believe this would make my neighborhood livelier and more diverse and attract new businesses. I'd also like to see investment in more public transportation to serve denser neighborhoods, as the availability of transport is one of the key attractions of living in this area for me and my family.

We're thrilled every day to experience this awesome community, and I know it has room for many more people who would also contribute and thrive here.

Therefore, I urge you to support the Planning Board draft of Thrive while thinking even more boldly about ways to make Montgomery County more affordable and sustainable for everyone. Thank you.