

## **In Support of Thrive2050**

My name is Deirdre McGlynn. I'm a Gen X'er living at Eastern Village Cohousing in downtown Silver Spring, where I have lived since it opened in 2004.

I strongly support Thrive 2050. I believe it's needed to keep downtown Silver Spring and its surrounding neighborhoods the vibrant, walkable, diverse, place that it is, inclusive of people of various ages, ethnicities, and incomes.

Eastern Village Cohousing is an excellent example of smart growth and transit oriented development. It's a multifamily community with a 10 minute walk to the Metro, and within walking distance to 5 different grocery stores. Many of my neighbors do not have cars. Eastern Village Cohousing replaced an office building that had been abandoned 8 years prior as were two other buildings in adjacent blocks that are now apartment buildings. We choose to pioneer what had been a neglected, downtrodden part of Silver Spring and bring it back to life, and thereby helped make the entire locality, including the surrounding SFH neighborhoods the desirable place to live it is today.

Now the walkable, vibrant and inclusive character of this area is threatened by the lack of flexibility of entrenched SFH partisans, who resist all efforts to mitigate the extreme housing costs of this area by allowing smaller scale housing options that would permit walkable or even car-free life style.

For Silver Spring to maintain its the culture and character, it needs to be attainable for millennials and Gen Z'ers. Without housing options for younger adults who do not have substantial inherited wealth, the divide between the Haves and the Have Nots in Silver Spring will only become more extreme and the vibrancy and diversity of its downtown core which anchors the area's desirability will once again be eroded.

Thrive 2050 will promote the availability of homes not overly large, but suitable, appealing, and attainable for 20, 30 and 40 somethings.

- It would promote the longevity and integrity of communities is promoting by providing a variety of housing options, when people can upsize or downsize within the neighborhoods they belong to.
- It would make it possible for young couples or families or individuals to get their start,
- It would allow options for young adults to stay in the neighborhood they grew up in and seniors or people with disabilities to downsize to more manageable options, according to their needs and preferences.

It will help Silver Spring remain a place where younger people are able to put down roots and who will, if we're lucky, be the mainstays of their communities 10, 20 or 30 years from now.