

To the Montgomery County City Council,

I recently (as of July 2022) moved to Montgomery County from overseas for work and study. I found a great apartment for my family which consists of my dog and me. I began my duties of job, study, and volunteering. Little by little, I began to get to know better the community, the local shops, restaurants, and community centers, parks and I started to really like the potential hopes of living long-term in this area.

Then I was hit with an unexpected rise in rent of **14%** from my apartment complex and all hope of building something in this community was shattered. I went into panic mode figuring out how I was going to be able to afford my rent and live sustainably while working 2 jobs and studying. While I expected a rent increase, I never expected it to increase so much at once, let alone for a 1-bedroom basic apartment.

I may not have a nuclear family of children and a partner, but I immediately thought of those who did and were found in a similar situation. All I could think of was “If I’m struggling, I can only imagine what a single mother or a person with a disability might be going through with this rent situation”.

I am writing for myself, a hardworking, immigrant, millennial (with a dog,) who is only doing the best to get ahead but I am also writing for those who are affected by this situation in ways I can only imagine. The reality is I could get a third job to help pay for my living expenses in this area or simply move but I shouldn’t have to do that. And what about the people who don’t have that as an option?

All we are asking for is a FAIR and SUSTAINABLE plan for people who are renting because there is no job that is giving salary increases of 14% a year and it is impossible to keep up.

Sincerely,
Drisneidi Villaman