

My name is Harold Hill.

I'm a Burtonsville renter and a community dad with two little ones of my own. I've also talked with hundreds of renters as a community builder with Everyday Canvassing and Impact Silver Spring.

At the beginning of COVID I lost my job which resulted in being nearly evicted multiple times from Woodvale Apartments in Briggs Chaney.

Eventually, a judge ruled that I was to be evicted from Woodvale apartments. Thankfully, the county paid the security deposit and three months rent for a new apartment in Burtonsville.

But what I learned through my experience of losing my job, getting eviction notices, and my knocking doors in my community is that when you're already at the edge like I've been, I think it's a slap in the face to up someone's rent when living conditions haven't been maintained to BASIC standards. Pests, mold. What are we paying for? When you get a \$100 dollar increase (that's 5% of 2000 dollars a month by the way), it's the difference between getting gas to drive to my job, and losing my job, on top of the fact that my living conditions haven't been raised to basic standards

That \$100, is the difference between hungry, crying children, and healthy, curious little ones.

It's the difference between my primary care doctor saying I've got stress stomach ulcers, and saying see you for your next yearly visit Harold.

If my rent increases by 3%, I can manage. But 8% and CPI? I suppose if CPI stands for "Can't Pay It."