Dear Council,

My name is Liliana Velasquez, and I have been a resident of Montgomery County for 3 years. I live at 2305 Georgian Way.

It is challenging to pay a percentage of 5% rent increase. Unfortunately, I don't have job stability to help my husband, who only has 3 days of work in a restaurant. The situation is challenging for us because we have a young girl who, when I get a day or two to clean a house, I cannot take the jobs because it would cost me my entire earnings and more to put her in childcare.

If rent continues to increase the way that it is, I do not know how we will sustain ourselves. Food and day-to-day cost are up. Salaries do not go up the way rent does. Anytime our wages increase, high rent prices, utilities, and the cost of goods offset it. I am writing this letter because we need a Rent Stability badly.

During the pandemic, we sought relief, knowing that our rent would not exceed 1.4%. Without permanent Rent Stabilization, I'm afraid our dreams of our daughter going to a good school here will disappear. The situation is such that we are currently looking for another home outside of Montgomery County.

I am writing to ask for your support of Rent Stabilization Bill 16-23: The Housing Opportunity, Mobility, and Equity Act in MoCo.

Please help us and take into consideration families like ours.

