

Dear Montgomery County Council,

My name is Marjorie Gomez and I am a resident of Montgomery County. My country of origin is Nicaragua where I migrated here with my only son 2 years ago. I am a Hotel housekeeper and have worked extremely hard to provide for my family and pay rent.

When I arrived here I was living with my family and thought I was in a safe environment. Little did I know that I would be facing horrible living conditions like mold, flooding and plumbing issues. We were painted a pretty picture of Montgomery County and thought it would be a wonderful place to start a new life with my family after having to practically escape from Nicaragua. Now trying to escape such deplorable, we have been displaced from our home due to an increase of our rent. My husband was still not in the United states and I couldn't pay 6% more for rent on my own. This caused me to be almost homeless with my 6-year-old son.

As a resident of Montgomery County I am writing to ask you for your support of Rent Stabilization Bill 16-23: The Housing Opportunity, Mobility, and Equity Act in MoCo. Tenants need to know that if their rent increases, it will be by a reasonable amount of money, no more than 3% of their current rent for the next 12 months.

If this Bill was already in place, so many families like mine would not have had to go through such horrible injustices. Families wouldn't be forced to move or worry if they will even find a place to live. Our children should not have to experience these living conditions and become victims of the consequences of displacement due to rent increases causes.

As a resident of the County, I believe that it is critical that we put people first. I am asking for a YES vote on the HOME Act, Bill 16-23.

Marjorie Gomez,

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