

Dear Montgomery County Council,

My name is Seilly Guerrero and a Montgomery County resident. I am a daughter of immigrants and at a young age I experienced the divorce of my parents. Growing up I always had to work extra hard and had to become independent at a young age. Currently, I work as a Nanny where I see first-hand just how much our family had to fight for basic rights. Now, living on my own I am facing extreme injustices and seeing myself forced to find a new place to live.

I was forced at a young age to work and live on my own. After struggling to make ends meet my rent is being increased by 7%. Aside from the rent increase, the living conditions have always been an issue. These problems include poor plumbing, staircases in dangerous conditions, unmaintained heating and air conditioning units, holes in the ceiling that have not been patched up and more. Since living here for over 3 years, none of these issues haven't been resolved. I may lose my job if I move out of the area and if I stay, I cannot afford these soaring rental prices.

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

When tenants are forced to leave because of excessive rent increases, it hurts not just that particular tenant but all of us. Schools are destabilized when families are forced to move. Jobs are lost when tenants move far away to afford the rent. Communities are uprooted when tenants can no longer stay in housing they may have occupied for years.

No resident of Montgomery County should be forced to live in such deplorable living conditions.

No family should be faced with these crazy rent increases.

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.

Sincerely,

Seilly Guerrero

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