

April 10, 2023

Montgomery County Council  
Council Office Building  
100 Maryland Avenue, 6th Floor  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Council Members:

I am a Montgomery County resident and my son with special needs lives at Main Street apartments. Main Street is an affordable and accessible apartment building in Rockville. Main Street offers residents the opportunity to live in an inclusive community and provides a range of programs supporting wellness and education as well as opportunities to socialize in an accepting and diverse community.

I am writing today to support the County Executive's proposed FY24 budget for Non-Departmental Accounts (NDA) Community Grants. I am in favor of supporting non-profit organizations that provide services to adults with disabilities. This is a population that lives with huge challenges including financial hardship, unemployment and underemployment, limited access to health care and social isolation. Continued support for affordable housing and for programs that address the needs of adults with disabilities is critical.

My son has shared with me that living at Main Street has been a life changing experience for him. It has supported his autonomy and independence and has provided him opportunities to engage in meaningful activities in an inclusive setting. My son feels accepted by Main Street's diverse community that is based on kindness and thoughtfulness. He has opportunities to participate in activities that support his physical and emotional health, to learn new skills, to explore the arts and acquire new independent living skills all while being a member of the Main Street community.

Main Street Connect is a model program that needs ongoing support to ensure that there is more accessible and affordable housing in our County that is linked with creative and meaningful activities to include people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities.

I hope that the Montgomery County Council will provide grant support to Main Street Connect so that the mission can be expanded because the need is great and the benefit to Montgomery County residents huge.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Gerson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Linda Gerson