

**Live Zoom Testimony of Vernon Ricks
Budget Hearings
April 11, 2023 7:00 pm**

Council President Glass and County Council members, thank you for this opportunity.

I'm Vernon Ricks.

I sit on the Executive Committee of the Montgomery County NAACP, the Police Sensitivity Task Force and I am also a former Takoma Park Councilmember and mayor pro-term.

I also proudly serve as Vice President of the Board of Montgomery Community Media.

MCM is our county's award-winning community media center where every-day people can learn how to write, shoot, edit and post their content, even using their smartphone.

Speaking of smartphones, did you know MCM has a program called the Senior Smart Series? High school student volunteers and our media professionals visit a local senior center and teach seniors how to get the most out of their device.

I was impressed by some of the comments. One said, "I learned so much. I learned how to install applications... I went to the App Store... I went to settings and changed my background. I used Spotify and downloaded some jazz. I love that!"

Free or low-cost media training classes are available for individuals, businesses and nonprofits. Students can use our high-tech media equipment, studios and podcast facilities in Rockville and Silver Spring to create their own polished programs.

And...MCM's small but mighty team of Emmy-award-winning media professionals cover and curate county news and information,... training the next generation of content creators while keeping residents informed of critical issues, community priorities and election information.

So, I ask each of you to please continue to support Montgomery Community Media.

Again, thank you for this opportunity.