

"Dear Council Member Glass and Councilmembers,

My name is John Murphy, and I am a constituent from Montgomery County Council District 5. I am using my voice today to support investment in behavioral health support, affordable housing, and homelessness programs in Fiscal Year 2024.

I believe that everyone deserves a safe, affordable, and stable place to call home. In order to end homelessness by 2025, there are some key programs that need increased funding to add more services rather than a reduction in programming. These include the **Permanent Supportive Housing**, the **Housing Initiative Program**, and the **Rapid Rehousing Program**.

We should also be combatting housing insecurity before anyone ever has to use these programs. Investing more in **affordable housing** for the lowest-income renters is vital to stopping the shortage that affects our community. I also support the increased funding for **Emergency Rental Assistance** as a safety net for families so they never have to face the trauma of eviction.

Finally, I support increased funding for the **Crisis Center** so that it can be staffed 24/7 for all three sites in Rockville, Germantown, and Silver Spring. Complex behavioral health emergencies require trained behavioral health experts county-wide. We must ensure that our Crisis Center is fully equipped with staff and resources to handle these emergencies.

Thank you so much for this opportunity.

Sincerely,

John Murphy