

**Testimony in favor of Special Appropriation #25-42 to the FY25 Operating Budget**

Hearing Date: December 10, 2024

**TO:** Montgomery County Council

**FROM:** Eneshal Galloway

My name is Eneshal Galloway and I have been living in a 2-bedroom apartment at Alexander House in Silver Spring. Because of unsafe conditions in my apartment, I have been forced to move and am constantly worried that I will not be able to afford my rent. I am writing today to ask you to please allocate \$3.6 million dollars in additional funding to Emergency Rental Assistance.

In April and August of 2024 a Pest Management company sprayed a dangerous chemical in my home and I suffered very serious allergic reactions. It left me mentally unwell and caused me to have a heart attack and be hospitalized. During this time, my husband had eight epileptic seizures. I now work as a caregiver for my husband. Because of our medical bills and inability to work, we were not able to afford any of the things we needed, including rent and food. Our apartment is no longer safe to live in, and we are forced to relocate and apply for Emergency Rental Assistance in order to afford to pay rent at a new, more expensive, apartment.

While I have experienced a great deal of hardships recently, I know that I am not alone. Countless of housed and unhoused residents in my community are having difficulty. Your vote to fund programs like Emergency Rental Assistance would mean so much to us. It would help our homeless, renters, and those living in unsafe conditions ensure that we do not fall behind on rent and utilities and can live with safety and dignity. I thank each of you for fighting for the people of Montgomery County, Maryland. Thank you for fighting for my family, my neighbors, and our homeless residents alike. We need you to vote today in favor of allocating these \$3.6 million dollars in Emergency Rental Assistance so that we can create a more equitable and compassionate community.

Best Regards,

Eneshal Galloway