

My name is Larry Platt. I am a 47 year old African American male who is currently a client at the Progress Place shelter in Downtown Silver Spring, Maryland. I have been homeless since May of this year. Prior to this, I'd been a working resident of Silver Spring, MD for the last 10 years.

Due to growing health issues that intensified in January, forcing me to the hospital for an extended period of time, I was no longer able to afford my car or apartment. Prior to being homeless, I was employed in my last job for 11.5 years. Struggling with health issues and becoming homeless for the first time has been a very jarring experience with little hope. I have spent most of my time at the shelter seeking stable employment while also attempting to book online work as a writer, along with giving blood plasma for compensation. It has become increasingly difficult to remain positive in this position in life while seeking work. Having access to emergency rental assistance would be the first step towards getting back on my feet and regaining the confidence and stability needed to regain employment and return to a normal, productive life.

Respectfully, I ask the council to vote in favor of allocating \$3.6 million in Emergency Rental Assistance.

Thank you,

Larry Platt