

December 8, 2024

**Re: Special Appropriation #25-42, Emergency Rental Assistance and Rapid Rehousing Programs.**

Dear Council President Stewart, Vice President Jawando, and Councilmembers:

My name is Michael Larkin, I reside in district 4, and I urge you to pass the \$3.6 million special appropriation for Emergency Rental Assistance and Rapid Rehousing Programs. As a volunteer at Shepherd's Table, I see firsthand the housing insecurity facing thousands of my fellow community members. Every morning while walking in Silver Spring I see school buses picking up children from the motel that is the temporary shelter those children live in. The need for this appropriation is great and that need cannot be ignored because it will only grow without action.

The funding measure that is before you will have a deep reach because people earning 30-60% of area median income (AMI) would qualify for eviction prevention assistance and it restarts the Short-Term Housing and Resolution Program (SHaRP). SHaRP is designed to help the growing number of families suffering homelessness for the first time. Eviction prevention and effective assistance the first time someone falls into homelessness can prevent the descent into chronic homelessness and even greater costs to the county. Passage of this supplemental appropriation is in keeping with our county's commitment to [functional zero](#).

This County Council has heard from me in other hearings and settings that urgent action is needed to address the onerous costs of housing. From increasing the supply of all types of housing to directly supporting people that need help right now, Montgomery County must take action to prevent the worst and immediate consequences of the housing crisis that faces us. Pass this appropriation in support of a more humane Montgomery County.

Sincerely,

Michael Larkin