

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

Hearing Date: December 10, 2024

**TO:** Montgomery County Council

**FROM:** Misrak Ergete

My name is Misrak Ergete and I am a resident of the Hermitage Square Apartments in Silver Spring and a community member of Housing Justice Montgomery. As a low-income resident of Montgomery County, I am asking that you please consider funding Emergency Rental Assistance.

Because I am low-income, I feel constant stress over how much money I have for the things I need. After I pay my rent each month, I do not have enough money leftover to buy food, so I have to use my credit card for all of my expenses. If I had access to emergency rental assistance for months where my expenses are higher, I would know that I could afford to pay rent and buy enough groceries to eat all month.

For myself and so many other people in Montgomery County, allocating \$3.6 million dollars to Emergency Rental Assistance would be life changing.

Thank you.