

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

Hearing Date: December 10, 2024

TO: Montgomery County Council

FROM: Sergine Yango

My name is Sergine Yango. I live at [REDACTED] Oak Leaf Drive and have been a Silver Spring resident for about 12 years. I am a mother of three kids and a member of the tenant association of my community. I am writing to urge the Montgomery County Council to allocate \$3.6 million additional dollars towards Emergency Rental Assistance and Rapid Rehousing.

As a member of my building's tenant association, I work to help families with disabilities and those who have young children who are facing eviction or who are currently being evicted. It really breaks my heart. It is too painful to see these evictions happen and most of the time these families don't have any place to go. I have seen how desperate these families are. If people in my community had access to emergency rental assistance, they would be able to live in a stable environment without the constant fear of eviction. They would be able to avoid the mental, emotional, and physical stress that comes with not knowing whether they will have a roof over their head that month. Their children would be able to have a stable life, including enrolling in school without the worry of an imminent move.

I am asking that you vote yes to allocate \$3.6 million dollars to Emergency Rental Assistance and Rapid Rehousing for the FY25 budget, so that these families can live in dignity and without fear of eviction.

Thank you.