

Dear County Council,

My name is Radica Sipcic, and I am a concerned District 1 resident writing to urge you to **pause ZTA 25-02** and reconsider your approach on the issue of workforce housing.

Now is not the time to gamble with untested approaches that provide developer giveaways at the expense of current Montgomery County residents including many seniors living along our key corridors.

According to the Comptroller of Maryland's 2024 State of the Economy Report:

- Maryland's **economic growth has been stagnant since 2017**. Adjusting for inflation, Maryland's GDP has grown 1.6% from 2016 to 2023 compared with 11.2% in Virginia and 13.9% nationwide.
- Maryland's **employment and wage growth stalled beginning in 2017** and is only 1.0% higher now than it was in late 2016 compared to 7.4% higher in the U.S., and 5.3% higher in Virginia.
- The Economy Report states that "this slow employment growth is attributed to a **lack of private sector job growth** in Maryland".

**Maryland's economic future is not bright** - and we need you to **focus on bringing jobs and economic prosperity back to Montgomery County**.

Now is not the time to pressure seniors out of their homes and into uncertainty.

Our community members are losing federal jobs at an alarming rate. According to the Maryland Bureau of Revenue Estimates:

- Maryland officials expect **28,000+ federal workers in the state to lose their jobs**, resulting in \$280 million less in revenue this fiscal year and next - further adding to our **\$3B state budget deficit**.
- Montgomery County is home to over 77,000 federal employees - many of whom will continue to be affected by layoffs in the coming months. Estimated **2,000+ in Montgomery County have already been laid off** from their federal jobs.
- Montgomery County **unemployment was rising even before this year** with 16,919 unemployed in Nov 2024 compared to 8,305 unemployed in Nov 2023.

It is time now for the Council to focus on bringing jobs back to Maryland and stabilizing the decline in Montgomery County.

Let me make it clear that **I will not vote for anyone who supports ZTA 25-02** in its current form.