

I am here tonight to say that I am glad for the More Housing NOW proposal.

I support more housing in our community and believe that housing is needed at all price points in order to reduce market pressure and bring down the crazy high price of owning a home in our county.

I like that this proposal will allow more homes near transit. We need more housing types – like town homes and small apartment buildings especially.

I like that this proposal will allow multi-family housing on lots along county corridors that are currently zoned for single-family only. I also like the way it will make it easier to convert office buildings to apartments and condominiums. and add another \$4 million in funding for first-time homebuyer downpayment assistance.

I do have some concerns.

Please **include corner lots along the corridors**, don't exclude them from rezoning. This will provide a consistent, comprehensive approach to corridor-focused growth.

**I hope that you will work to ensure that funding for workforce housing is added to existing affordable housing investments.** I support the proposed Workforce Housing Opportunity Fund, and ask that the Council hold firm in its commitment to allocating \$4 million in new funding for this program. Please do not divert funding from other programs.

In other hearings when I've voiced support for affordable housing and multi-family housing, people have asked me if I would want multifamily housing next to my house. I am here to answer YES to this question. In fact, I live directly across from the almost complete Residences at Forest Glen, the new Montgomery Housing Partnership building. It has been wonderful to watch the new building go up, and I'm really excited to have new neighbors there. I know those new neighbors will soon be sharing our parks, our local schools, and using the bus and Metro alongside me and I'm very happy about it. And in fact, when I was president of the neighborhood association a few years back and MHP proposed that building our association, the Forest Estates Community Association, voted unanimously to support the new development.

We desperately need more housing here. I raised my two kids in this county, and they both love this community. They would love to settle here now that they are both out of college and working. But housing here is so expensive. I literally don't know where anyone just starting out can live anymore. If we don't provide that in close-in neighborhoods with existing infrastructure like transit we are just going to add to sprawl and make traffic worse on all of our roads.

This bill isn't the solution I was dreaming of – I wanted you all to go farther with this and just rezone the entire county. I'd like all the new buildings to be bigger and house more people.

But I do think this is a good step in the right direction.

Thanks for your time and attention.

Alison Gillespie

