

Testimony of Jalal Naseri

Operating Budget – April 7, 2025

My name is Jalal, and I live at the Enclave Apartments at 11215 Oak Leaf Drive, Silver Spring, Maryland. I have lived there with my family since 2023. I am the leader of my household, which includes seven people in total.

During the past two years, we have faced a number of challenges — especially with rent payments. That is why I am speaking today. As Councilmembers representing our community, we kindly request that you allocate \$50 million in the FY26 budget to prevent evictions and provide safe, stable housing.

Since I have been living at the Enclave, I have not been able to pay my rent. One major reason is that I am currently unemployed. Because of this, I was faced with the threat of eviction — and there are so many other families in our building in the same situation. We have seen too many families experience eviction. It is heartbreaking. It feels like a story of failure.

We know that stable housing is the foundation for a better life. If families have a safe and stable place to live, it improves our children's education, reduces stress, and gives our families a chance at a happier life. The \$50 million we are requesting will go a long way in making this stability possible.

In closing, I ask you from the bottom of my heart to consider our situation and allocate \$50 million in the FY26 budget for eviction prevention in our community.

Thank you.