

Kevin M. Murphy

Silver Spring, MD 20910

April 6, 2025

Dear Council President Stewart and Councilmembers:

My name is Kevin Murphy, and I am a resident of County Council District 4. I have lived in Montgomery County all of my 65 years, and in Silver Spring since 1992. My wife (Mary) and I have been active in the community in many ways for over 30 years. I was previously on the board of SEEC, and I am currently on the board of Shepherd's Table.

With a 71% increase in homelessness in Montgomery County from 2020-2024, I urge that the council respond by funding the programs that are designed to meet urgent food insecurity needs, but also those that are aimed at prevention and exits from homelessness.

Accordingly, I ask that the Council support the following food assistance programs in the FY2026 Budget:

- More and more residents across the county are accessing food assistance providers while they struggle to make ends meet. I urge the Council to fund a **10% increase to food assistance grants to help providers, including but not limited to Shepherd's Table**, to address rising food costs and increasing need.

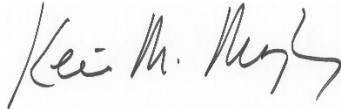
I believe that Montgomery County should be a place where both basic housing and food needs are attainable for all. Accordingly, I ask that the council support the following housing needs programs in the FY 2026 Budget:

- Rapid Rehousing, which provides short term rental assistance to individuals experiencing homelessness, as well as light case management. This is one of SEPH's primary ways it exits people out of the homelessness system. The Council should **fund Rapid Rehousing** to sufficiently cover the costs of sheltering and housing of an estimated 642 current clients and 200 new clients in 2026, so that there is enough to fund everyone's exit out of homelessness.
- For our neighbors with chronic health conditions and disabilities, housing is healthcare. Yet, too many are left without the long-term support they need. I urge the council to **fund Permanent Supportive Housing** with sufficient funds to support both current clients and new individuals that experience the toughest conditions to exiting homelessness.
- No one should be left without a home because they can't afford skyrocketing rents. The council should **fund the Emergency Rental Assistance Program** at a level that would ensure that all households that are entitled to rental assistance receive meaningful funds.
- In order to prevent homelessness and housing insecurity, we must address the housing shortage. I ask that the Council fully **fund affordable housing development initiatives** with funds sufficient to meaningfully address this critical issue.

- I also support **funding a Storage and Moving Assistance** benefit to provide eligible families who were evicted by the Sheriffs' Office at least several months of storage costs to help them recover and restart.

I'd like to thank the Council for your time, consideration, and your leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin M. Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'K' and a long, sweeping tail.

Kevin M. Murphy