



April 1, 2025

Dear Council President Stewart,

I'm writing to encourage the County Council's continued support for Montgomery Community Media (MCM). (Disclosure: I serve as a member of MCM's board of directors)

As you know, local public media outlets across the country are facing real funding challenges due to steeply declining revenues tied to cable television subscriptions. As more and more people choose to "cut the cord" and get their TV content through streaming services, the challenge becomes more acute.

At the same time, MCM's services provide real benefit to Montgomery County residents, businesses, and nonprofits through news-gathering, media training, local content production, and community engagement. In our case, the City of Gaithersburg has enjoyed a long-standing partnership with MCM, particularly on producing content to promote and cover the Gaithersburg Book Festival.

With today's dearth of professional local media, the public needs reliable sources of relevant news and information more than ever. It is with that in mind that I ask the County Council to continue its support of MCM and the many and varied programs they provide.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Jud Ashman, Mayor
City of Gaithersburg

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