

From: Charlie Short

Date: 4/10/2025, 5:39:14 PM

Dear Council President Stewart and members of the county council,

I'm writing regarding the FY 26 budget the council is now considering. First, I would like to thank the members of the council for their work as exceptional local elected officials.

I know that this is a particularly difficult budget that you are considering. In the past, the council has been able to make wise and just decisions regarding the quality of life in Montgomery County, particularly relating to those who are poor and vulnerable. I urge the council to continue its just and compassionate decisions for the next fiscal year.

I am an employee of the county government and a member of McGeo. I urge you to support our contract. The county government is a wonderful place to work, and I deeply enjoy serving the wonderful people of Montgomery County.

I urge the council to continue supporting refugees and immigrants who are tragic victims of a cruel federal government. I am proud that Montgomery County has welcomed people from all over the world and it would be a crying, inconsolable shame if decisions by the federal government cause them to suffer more. I urge the council to fund employment programs for people with disabilities. I am one of a small number of people with disabilities who have the opportunity for a career in county government. I hope the council will find ways to expand the number of people with disabilities in the county government's work force. I urge the council to support those programs that help poor people with their most basic needs like food, shelter, medical care, and employment opportunities. I live at home with my parents who are getting older, and I urge the council to provide services so that they can continue to live in our home and be active.

Thank you for considering my testimony. I trust that the council will continue to make fair decisions and assure the highest possible quality of life for all of us who live in this wonderful county.

Sincerely,

Charlie Short Jr.