

My name is Liliana Emefa Nutakor and I am a resident of Montgomery County. I identify as a black woman, and have lived here for 16 years. I am a member of the Green New Deal Internship. With a 71% increase in homelessness in Montgomery County from 2020-2024, the council must fund the demands that our community has decided are most important, especially the ones that provide prevention and exit from homelessness. I ask that the council support the Emergency Rental Assistance Program with \$50 million to ensure all 4,723 households that asked for rental assistance receive an average grant of \$10,581. No one should be left without a home because they can't afford skyrocketing rents. Growing up in Montgomery County, I have seen a lot of people move away due to the fact that the area was becoming less and less affordable. Throughout the years as people have had drastic changes to their jobs and even been fired, it made it harder for them to pay their rent on time up until the point where they were evicted and forced to move away from their family and friends. They were forced out of their homes with no resource or support available to help them pay their rent. This is why we need rental assistance in our community. With the stresses of an everyday life there is too much to handle at once, between finances, family, education, jobs and more. I believe that this program could dramatically help our society and provide us all with the support and resources that we all need. I ask the Council to vote in favor of allocating \$50 million to help the thousands of households in Montgomery County requesting rental assistance.

Respectfully,

Liliana Emefa Nutakor