

March 29, 2025

Dear Council President Stewart and Council Members,

My name is Ellen Melle and I live in the Dumont Oaks subdivision in White Oak. I am Secretary of the White Oak Library Advisory Committee (LAC), a member of the Burnt Mills Elementary School PTA, a member of Friends of the Library Montgomery County (FOLMC), and a Family Support Volunteer for the New Neighbor Interfaith Alliance (NNIA). Montgomery County Public Libraries are a common touch point supporting the services these organizations deliver to White Oak residents.

Montgomery County's libraries are one of this county's most valuable assets and a *HUGE* force multiplier for MCPS and MCPL. The resources, services, and programs they provide to toddlers and preschool children and their parents are immeasurable, particularly for the dozens of recently arrived young immigrant families living in The Enclave in White Oak.

My home library is White Oak. I go there at least once each week to purchase donated used books from FOLMC, check out books, and attend community meetings.

I ask that the Council support the following in the FY 2026 operating budget for Montgomery County Public Libraries:

An additional \$121,000 to increase the collection acquisitions budget, ensuring that the library can continue meeting the rise in demand for digital materials, including maintaining five Hoopla checkouts per month.

An additional \$153,000 to increase the world languages collection. This will better serve the communities that speak many different languages in Montgomery County.

Please fully support the County Executive's proposed operating budget for Montgomery County Public Libraries.

Respectfully,
Ellen Melle



Silver Spring, MD 20901-5041