

11517 Danville Place  
Rockville, MD 20852  
February 11, 2026

Council President Fani-González and Members, Montgomery County Council  
100 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Council President Fani-Gonzalez and Members of the Council:

As a longtime County resident with a strong interest in the revitalization of Montgomery County's historically black communities, including Emory Grove, **I am writing to urge the Council to include full funding for a rebuilt or refreshed UpCounty Recreation Center in the FY 27-32 Capital Improvement Program (CIP).**

The current recreation center, built more than 40 years ago following the County's unsuccessful urban renewal efforts that displaced over 100 homeowners, has not undergone meaningful updates since its construction. The facility's visible signs of aging reflect decades of underinvestment in this historically neglected community. Modernizing this center is essential to ensuring equitable access to high-quality public amenities.

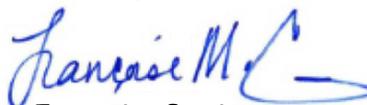
The need is especially urgent now. Through the leadership of Emory Grove United Methodist Church, the Heritage Emory Grove Community Development Corporation (the CDC) and the County's Housing Opportunities Commission, more than 500 units of housing—spanning a range of affordability—are slated for construction within the next two years. With hundreds of new families soon to call Emory Grove home, the existing recreation center simply cannot meet the community's future demand for space, programming, and opportunities for connection.

In addition, the CDC's collaboration with Montgomery Parks and the Bethesda Big Train aims to restore youth baseball as a cornerstone of community life, honoring the legacy of Johnson's Local Park while creating meaningful opportunities for young people. A modern, well-designed recreation center is central to advancing this vision and building positive pathways for youth development.

While many worthy projects vie for inclusion in the CIP, the scale, impact, and timing of this initiative make it uniquely deserving of priority. Significant public-private partnership is already in place, and the community is prepared to leverage this moment to address long-standing disparities. Investing in the UpCounty Recreation Center is both a practical and moral imperative.

**I respectfully ask the Council to translate its stated support for Emory Grove into concrete action by including full funding for the reconstruction or substantial renovation of the UpCounty Recreation Center in the FY 27-32 CIP.** Thank you for your continued service and for your commitment to ensuring that all communities in our County have access to the resources they need to thrive.

Sincerely,



Françoise Carrier