

April 23, 2019

CM Letter of Testimony–

Hello, everyone. My name is Cynthia McMillian. I am sixty-two years old and reside in Hope Housing, which is a shared, Permanent Supportive Housing Program for formerly homeless individuals with a disability, run by Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless (MCCH). Before coming to Hope Housing, I spent a year homeless in Montgomery County. I stayed at the women's shelter and on the streets. In January of 2018 I was referred to Hope Housing, In Hope Housing I immediately found the family I had been missing. My own family is in Detroit. I now live in a five-bedroom house in Rockville with four other ladies. We're able to cook together, laugh together and spend time with one another.

I really do love living in a house with other people rather than an apartment. I have friends from my days at the shelter who were placed into single apartments and they are so lonely. I have a comfortable place to live with nice neighbors. I live in a safe neighborhood where I can walk outside with my coffee to watch the birds and squirrels every day. I feel safer in a house. In apartments there are so many different types of people in a crowded space. I feel supported by my case manager and the other ladies in my house. My case manager in Hope Housing sees me regularly to assist me with my basic needs. I was helped in applying for early retirement benefits and my case manager assists me with other benefits such as securing food assistance.

I think it would be beneficial to do more of this type of individual housing instead of apartments. It's much less expensive and the benefits are amazing. Thank you for letting me share my experience in Hope Housing with you all.

Sincerely,

Cynthia McMillian