

I am writing to you to express my support for Councilmember Will Jawando's Zoning Text Amendment 20-07 to allow the development of missing middle housing within a mile of metro stations.

This amendment is an important step towards promoting equitable access and a better quality of life for many across the county for a variety of reasons.

Promoting density around public transportation is an environmental issue and a racial justice issue. Promoting housing near public transit encourages folks to use greener public transit options instead of private vehicles or rideshare services which release greater amounts of emissions into our environment. Public transit also enables people to get around the area and go to work without purchasing a vehicle or other services which they may not avoid.

Enabling density and a variety of housing options is also an equity and justice issue. America, including Maryland and Montgomery County, have a shameful history of redlining and housing discrimination policies. The county has taken steps to rectify the lasting impacts of these practices, and Councilmember Jawando's amendment is another step to change course from that history and ensure that the county can continue to welcome anyone as new neighbors.

Overall, I urge you to support this ZTA 20-07 because it promotes equitable housing and lower housing costs, and it promotes use of equitable and green public transit.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Benjamin Bradley  
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