

Montgomery County (MD) Council  
TESTIMONY SUBMITTED ONLINE VIA WEB FORM:  
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/PHSignUp.html>

Ava Morgenstern  
Silver Spring, MD

**RE: WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD  
DRAFT OF THE SILVER SPRING DOWNTOWN AND ADJACENT  
COMMUNITIES PLAN: FEBRUARY 17, 2022 PUBLIC HEARING**

February 10, 2022

Dear Councilmembers:

As a proud new homeowner in Silver Spring, I write in enthusiastic **support** of the Planning Board Draft of the Silver Spring Downtown and Adjacent Communities Plan.

Just a few months ago I bought a home in downtown (South) Silver Spring, attracted by our city's affordability, diversity, and liveliness. I am excited to join our community! I want Silver Spring to stay affordable so that I and my neighbors can keep enjoying the quality of life here. As a new resident myself, I also want our city to keep attracting *new* neighbors. Toward those ends, I fully support the Plan.

Without Silver Spring's abundance of available housing, I could not have found a home here as quickly as I did. I want us to remain a high-density community so that more new residents like me can make our homes here. Toward that end, I especially support the Plan's proposals for adding multifamily units at all levels of affordability; preserving existing market-rate affordable housing; providing a mix of other housing options for people of all ages, income levels, abilities, and household sizes; increasing income-restricted affordable housing units; developing permanent supportive housing for the unhoused; and increasing flexibility of zoning for mixed-use development.

I invite you to keep Silver Spring attractive to new homeowners like myself who enjoy everything that makes this city so special. To keep this city growing and vibrant – looking toward the future and not trapped in the past – I urge you to support the Plan. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,  
Ava Morgenstern