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April 5, 2024

Andrew Friedson, President Montgomery County Council 100 Maryland Ave Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Council President Friedson,

In a time where we are losing access to local news and information, Montgomery Community Media has deepened and expanded its work. MCM is the only independent, nonprofit organization that provides access to information for all of Montgomery County's residents. The breadth and depth of their work, whether it is providing daily local news, media training, or renting out their studio, keeps us informed and keeps us inspired. Let me share a brief background in how MCM has impacted our organization.

Leadership Montgomery is a community leadership organization whose mission is to connect and prepare leaders to build thriving and inclusive workplaces and communities. Our organization considers MCM a vital resource in our work and we follow their coverage to keep up to date on community issues.

Leadership Montgomery has partnered with MCM in a myriad of ways over the years- from hosting our Emerging Leaders program during a session on public speaking at the studio to being a sponsor of the Small Business Network. Everything that they offer and do exceeds expectations, and many are surprised at how efficient they are, considering how lean they run their operations.

I encourage you to maintain MCM funding to support local community media. I have personally witnessed council members expressing their desire for more people to be informed about what is happening in the county. MCM's funding is critical to bridging that access to information.

Sincerely,

Dana Pauley President & CEO