



April 8, 2024

The Honorable Andrew Friedson
Montgomery County Council
Council Office Building
100 Maryland Avenue, 6th Floor
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Council President Friedson,

I am writing to share Interfaith Works' (IW) recognition and appreciation of Montgomery Community Media (MCM) as a valuable resource in our community. MCM, with its talented, dedicated staff and myriad of programs, is worthy of continued support and investment in the County's FY25 budget.

Over the past two years, IW has benefited enormously from MCM's work and partnership:

- We contracted with MCM to produce our first explainer video which provided a captivating way for the public to understand IW's numerous and complex services to Montgomery County.
- Their reporters have covered several of IW's events, including IW Day in April 2022 and the opening of Lon's House in June 2023, both of which included elected officials from the County, local municipalities, and the state of Maryland.
- Our staff participated in MCM's 2023 Nonprofit Day where they benefited from discussions on how to use media to connect with the community and ethical considerations in portraying our work and clients. MCM staff also worked with our Communications Specialist to create a 90-second "How We Help" video which we have been using to attract donors and volunteers.
- Most recently, MCM has opened their studio for our bimonthly Community Conversations, filming discussions around such topics as affordable housing and food insecurity.

In this time of shrinking media outlets which cater to a particular viewpoint, MCM serves as an unbiased source of information for issues affecting our community. In short, MCM is not a "nice to have" – it is an essential resource in this community. Without it, the voices of residents, nonprofits, businesses, and government would be silenced.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions.

Sincerely,


Courtney Hall
CEO