MONTGOMERY COUNTY
BLACK
COLLECTIVE

April 7, 2024

Dear Council President Friedson and Councilmembers:

Montgomery Community Media (MCM) provides critical information solutions to ensure that people in Montgomery County have access to a wide range of quality public media. MCM is the only independent, nonprofit organization that provides access to information for all of Montgomery County's residents. They provide access through public television, podcasts, and broadband internet, offer a variety of news that is useful to residents, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and government.

MCM has raised the awareness of community resources and services, they are a major employer in the community with two locations in Rockville and Silver Spring, conduct training for students and adults interested in media production, offer numerous volunteer opportunities to community members particularly students that have achieved Student Service Learning (SSL) hours, and frequently offer complimentary media production to local government and nonprofit organizations.

Additionally, MCM leverages County funding by increasing earned income through sponsorships, fundraising, and fee-for service programs. The County's investment in MCM increases their organizational capacity and thereby increases the information network essential for people that do not have a community newspaper, radio station or county-wide website for information. MCM is a partner to a variety of people, educational programs, businesses, nonprofits, and individuals. They are an effective and efficient organization, leveraging every dollar invested to ensure outcomes related to outreach and raising the voices of all in the County.

I encourage you to maintain MCM funding and know that your investment increases their ability to share information across media outlets. Information is knowledge, knowledge is power. Empowering people through vetted information is a value we hold as a community and the vision the Council shares for providing services to our citizens.

Sincerely,

Kim Jones
Executive Director