

April 7, 2026

The Honorable Natali Fani-González
President, Montgomery County Council
Council Office Building
100 Maryland Avenue, 6th Floor
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Council President Fani-González and Members of the County Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for Montgomery Community Media (MCM) and to encourage the Council to continue and enhance its investment in this vital community resource as part of the FY27 budget.

As a MCM member since 2009 and a volunteer Podcast Producer and Host, I have had the privilege of recently (2024-2026) producing and airing ten episodes of *Travel Talk with Sheila and Friends Podcast* and posting twelve blog submissions under *Travel Talk with Sheila and Friends Blog*. Through MCM's training programs and production support, I have been able to create content that informs and inspires residents — particularly students, recent graduates, and young adults—about studying abroad, working abroad, and global learning opportunities.

MCM plays a critical role in fostering community storytelling and civic engagement by equipping residents with the tools and platforms to share their voices. As media consumption continues to evolve, there is a growing opportunity to expand digital access and discoverability of locally produced content on MCM's Website. Enhancing MCM's online infrastructure—such as developing a dedicated podcast section for Member/Access Users produced podcast content—would significantly increase visibility, accessibility, and community impact. This type of investment would further align with MCM's mission to empower residents and modernize how local stories are shared and accessed.

Through its journalism, training programs, and creative partnerships, MCM helps ensure that residents have access to local information, civic engagement opportunities, and the ability to tell their own stories. Continued and expanded funding will allow MCM to build upon this strong foundation and adapt to the evolving media landscape in ways that benefit the entire Montgomery County community.

Thank you for your continued commitment to supporting organizations that strengthen community connection and access to information across Montgomery County.

Sincerely,

Sheila Ogilvie

Producer/Host, *Travel Talk with Sheila and Friends Podcast*
Blogger, *Travel Talk with Sheila and Friends Community Blog*