

Nadine R Masone -Mort

County Council Budget Hearing Testimony- Montgomery County Pride Family Center  
April 8, 2026

Hi, I'm Nadine Masone-Mort, a Montgomery County resident and honored to be a member of the Community Advisory Board for the Montgomery County Pride Family. Like many county residents I was moved to join the Community Advisory Board by the actions of federal, state and local governments spewing hate speech, overt attacks and passing discriminatory legislation against members of my family and friends who are proud queer individuals. And frankly I was drawn to support MoCoPride because it saves lives. I believe it is a lifeline to the 8% of Montgomery County residents, that's 88,000 who identify as queer as well as their families and friends.

If you could witness, as I have the welcoming secure safe space the fantastic MoCoPride leadership and staff have created through this program, a program this council initiated knowing you were answering the needs of a long forgotten/overlooked population. I honestly don't know how they offer such a wide variety of services including STI testing, resource navigation and the community-centered work that encourages connection, fellowship, and joy.

Please fully fund the Montgomery County Pride Family, MoCo Pride Center at a minimum of \$1,000,000 in the FY27 base budget. More quick math; \$1 million divided by 88,000 equals \$11.36 cents each. That seems like a very fair investment.

Many thanks for your outstanding courage and leadership in this difficult time.