



April 8, 2026

*Via Email ([County.Council@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:County.Council@montgomerycountymd.gov)) and upload*  
Montgomery County Council  
Council Office Building  
100 Maryland Avenue, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Rockville, MD 20850

Re: Montgomery Soccer, Incorporated – Comments on Montgomery County’s  
Proposed FY27 Operating Budget

Dear Council President Fani-Gonzalez and Members of the Montgomery County  
Council:

Montgomery Soccer, Incorporated (“MSI”) is submitting this written testimony to  
accompany the oral testimony we delivered at the Montgomery County Council’s (the  
“Council”) April 8, 2026, public hearing on the FY27 Operating Budget.

At the Council’s public hearing in February on the Capital Improvement Program, MSI  
testified in strong support of Montgomery County Public Schools’ (“MCPS”) request to  
fund the installation and replacement of artificial turf fields at six schools across the  
County. MSI also shared details regarding MSI’s long-standing partnership with MCPS.  
Over the past eight years, MSI has fully funded four artificial turf fields at three schools  
– Albert Einstein, Julius West, and Walt Whitman. These fields remain in active use  
today and serve players from across Montgomery County. While MSI does not have  
exclusive access to these fields, they receive a set number of allocated hours each  
year under these agreements.

In its testimony at the County Council’s operating budget public hearing on April 8<sup>th</sup>,  
MSI highlighted the contributions that MSI makes beyond the obligations contained in  
the formal partnership agreements with MCPS. When a player bench at Einstein broke

during a school event, MSI stepped in to replace and install it. When nets are damaged at Einstein or Whitman – as they often are – MSI replaces them, sometimes multiple times each season. When goals need repair, MSI staff handles it. And currently, MSI is investing in improvements at Julius West, where heavy use has worn down surrounding areas. MSI does this without billing MCPS. They do it quickly, efficiently, and in a way that reduces strain on MCPS’ operating budget – ultimately saving the County as a whole money.

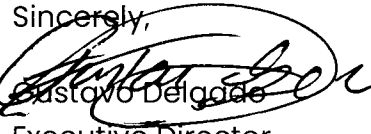
In its testimony, MSI also addressed concerns that have been expressed regarding artificial turf. However, today’s turf technology is significantly improved from the artificial turf of even several years ago. It no longer uses crumb rubber, does not contain forever chemicals like PFAs, runs substantially cooler than older surfaces, and is fully recyclable. These are modern, environmentally responsible systems. From a fiscal perspective, while turf fields require higher upfront investment, they cost less to maintain annually than grass fields. And they can handle far more use.

For example, according to last summer’s Office of Legislative Oversight (“OLO”) report, grass fields at the Maryland SoccerPlex in Montgomery County receive between 850 and 1,250 hours of use per year. Artificial turf fields, by contrast, exceed 3,000 hours annually. MCPS also reported usage figures of approximately 69,000 hours on grass versus 458,000 hours on turf.

The takeaway is simple: turf fields dramatically expand access and equity. More hours means more opportunities – for more kids – to play, practice, and grow.

In closing, MSI is committed to continuing to partner with MCPS and the County to fund additional turf fields at schools and community sites. This is a practical, cost-effective investment that benefits our youth and strengthens our community.

We thank you for your consideration of our comments. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,  
  
Gustavo Delgado  
Executive Director  
Montgomery Soccer, Inc.