

Date: 4/2/2026

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 support for Montgomery Community Media (MCM) and to encourage the Council to continue its support of this important community resource as part of the FY27 budget.

Montgomery Community Media's role as a trusted local news source in Montgomery County is undeniable. Not to mention additional media training opportunities and platforms that allow residents and organizations the tools to explore and share stories that matter to our community.

As a Digital Futures Institute Fellow as of the Summer of 2025, I can share what was true for me. During my time as a DFI Fellow, what stuck out to me the most was the intricacy of the process of creating content for the air. While I was already familiar with the process through school, as of writing this letter to you, nothing has given me more experience and prepared me more for the physical and mental journey of media creation than my experience as a DFI Fellow. From the act of pitching, through to the necessity to meet deadlines on time, this fellowship offered me the chance to balance creativity, technical knowhow, and deadlines to be able to create both a product that I'm proud of, and a product that is complete.

This experience has also left me with connections and relationships; there are people who I met during this experience that I am still friends and acquainted with, who I can work with, or just communicate with as equals on our continued life journeys.

Through its journalism, training programs, filmmaking-adjacent workshops, and creative partnerships, MCM ensures that residents have access to local information, civic engagement opportunities, and tools to tell their own stories.

To witness our film, traverse different film festivals in the United States, I can say with confidence that MCM has allowed doors to be open in ways I would not have imagined. Not just because of their expansive network, but through their intentions and how it shows up in the work they produce.

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

Sincerely,

Marshall Pruitt

Filmmaker

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