

Good evening, my name is Nathan Feinberg. I am a math teacher at John F. Kennedy High School living in the Fairland neighborhood of Silver Spring with my wife and three children.

They are the fourth generation of our family to live in Montgomery County. But many more have been forced out and displaced from their own communities by the ever increasing cost of housing that has for decades far outpaced growth in wages.

Our own family was nearly forced out as well, when DHCA threw us out on the streets with 24 hours notice to vacate our basement apartment, because our landlord was breaking the law.

Indeed it was only through a small inheritance when my mother passed of cancer, and threw the grace of God, that we were able to buy our home in Fairland. Even then, we continued paying over half of our take home pay just to make the mortgage. Costs which deprive our children of opportunity, and greatly diminish the resources available to our local economy.

My friends who were not so fortunate now spend hours everyday commuting into the county to pick up your trash, clean your buildings, and care for your children. Still supporting the community from which they have been outcast.

That is why we must now commit to profound investments in deeply affordable housing for the working families that make life in Montgomery County possible. No more families should be displaced. No more children should be driven from the communities they call home.

We are calling on this council to build a lasting legacy of fair housing by investing in a sustainable, long-term program of social housing through the Housing Initiative Fund. We cannot rely solely on market forces we know will never deliver what working families need.

Will you commit today to do what is necessary to bring our county into an era of affordability and ending our dangerous, destabilizing slide into a permanent renter class? By investing \$182M in the Housing Initiative Fund to build a deeply affordable social housing program that will grow and sustain itself for generations to come?