



City of Rockville
111 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland
20850-2364
www.rockvillemd.gov

240-314-5000
TTY 240-314-8137

February 5, 2026

Marc Elrich, Montgomery County Executive
101 Monroe Street, Second Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850

The Honorable Natalie Fani-González, President
Montgomery County Council
111 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear County Executive Elrich and County Council President Fani-González,

The Mayor and Council are taking this opportunity to express our disappointment with the County's decision to close nine of the twenty-one libraries on Sundays. Public libraries provide essential services in the community. We jointly advocate with the Rockville Human Services Advisory Commission and the Twinbrook community in support of these services being restored as soon as possible. We are particularly concerned with the impact of the Twinbrook library's Sunday closure on the community.

Sundays are one of the few days in the week when many library patrons may not be working. It provides the opportunity for patrons to access services they are unable to use during weekdays. These service reductions run counter to the needs of our community. According to the National Homeless Information Project, Montgomery County had the largest increase in homelessness from 2024 to 2025 in the entire Washington, D.C. metro region, with a total of 366 individuals now experiencing homelessness. This is an increase of 32%; yet, the County decided to cut services on Sundays that directly impact the well-being of these individuals.

For vulnerable communities, libraries are more than a place to check out books and movies. They are one of the last places in the community where patrons can visit for free and experience a sense of comfort and security. Further, libraries provide shelter from the elements. Yet, during the coldest time of the year, nearly 50% were closed on Sunday, one of the hardest days to find shelter and resource supports. More than shelter, the Twinbrook community is losing library programs that support their needs. Students who may not have reliable internet access are losing a place to complete assignments, as well as story time programs that connect them with other children who have a shared passion for books.

According to a 2025 Brown University Study, when libraries close, reading and math scores for the affected area plummet for students across the board. While the County has not completely closed all of its branches, we cannot simply ignore the effect that closing libraries even one day a week will have. Twinbrook Library already serves Title I schools that are struggling for resources to meet the needs of their students and families.

The impact of the closure of even one day a week goes far beyond affecting students. It affects the entire community's access to information and resources. The Twinbrook Library offered Language meetups for individuals to practice their language skills. Additionally, it offers many other meetup programs for like-minded individuals to enjoy time together. The library also offers free printing services, up to fifteen pages, providing patrons with the opportunity to print resumes, cover letters for job applications, and other knowledge or resources they may need.

MAYOR

Monique Ashton

COUNCILMEMBERS

Kate Fulton

Barry Jackson

David Myles

Izola (Zola) Shaw

Marissa Valeri

Adam Van Grack

CITY MANAGER

Jeff Mihelich

CITY CLERK/DIRECTOR OF
COUNCIL OPERATIONS

Sara Taylor-Ferrell

CITY ATTORNEY

Robert E. Dawson

February 5, 2026

The Honorable Marc Elrich, Montgomery County Executive, and the Honorable Natalie Fani-González, President, Montgomery County Council

Page Two

The Twinbrook community is very concerned about the cuts and is working to restore the Library Advisory Committee to ensure that additional community resources are not lost. We fully support their efforts and urge the County to provide adequate resources for the Twinbrook Library and all in the County to remain open seven days a week. We urge you to please restore these critical services that support the well-being of our community.

Sincerely,

 Monique Ashton, Mayor	
 Kate Fultz, Councilmember	 Izola (Zola) Shaw, Councilmember
 Barry Jackson, Councilmember	 Marissa Valeri, Councilmember
 David Myles, Councilmember	 Adam Van Grack Councilmember

City of Rockville Mayor and Council

cc: Marilyn Balcombe, County Council Vice President
Shebra Evans, County Councilmember
Andrew Friedson, County Councilmember
Evan Glass, County Councilmember
Will Jawando, County Councilmember
Sidney Katz, County Councilmember
Dawn Luedtke, County Councilmember
Kristin Mink, County Councilmember
Laurie-Anne Sayles, County Councilmember
Kate Stewart, County Councilmember
Jeff Mihelich, Rockville City Manager
Rich Madaleno, Chief Administrative Officer