

Good afternoon,

My name is Em Espey. My partner and I lived in an apartment on the seventh floor of Arrive Silver Spring until the early morning hours of February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023, when a unit just two doors down from us caught fire. The horrific fire resulted in our permanent displacement as well as the displacement of hundreds of other residents—and caused the death of my neighbor, Melanie Diaz, and her two dogs.

Melanie's death would have been prevented if Arrive Silver Spring had been equipped with sprinklers. What my partner and I went through as a result of this disaster I would not wish upon anyone else—but it pales in comparison to the pain Melanie's family must endure in the wake of her death. There is absolutely no excuse why fire safety protections should not be legally required of all high rise apartments like Arrive in our state. Please pass this important, life-saving legislation and make renting safe for everyone in Maryland—in honor and in memory of Melanie Diaz, her pets, and everyone else whose death should have been prevented by appropriate safety measures like sprinklers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Em Espey  
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