



12200 Tech Road, Suite 250, Silver Spring, MD 20904 • Phone: 301-622-2400 • Fax: 301-622-2800

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact: Robert Goldman  
President  
301-812-4114

## MHP Issues Final Assistance Checks to Victims of Flower Branch Apartments Fire

*(Silver Spring, MD)* – Montgomery Housing Partnership (MHP) is pleased to announce that today we have issued the final assistance checks to the victims of the Long Branch Fire. Checks for the second and final round of direct cash support, totaling about \$320,000, are being distributed to the 61 families displaced by the tragic event as the last step in the emergency relief provided by MHP.

Through an outpouring of support from the community, the total amount of donations to the MHP Long Branch Fire Fund was more than \$820,000. All funds received went directly to support the families affected, with \$50,000 used to cover the most immediate needs, including cell phones and cell phone chargers, car key replacement, food, hotel stays, moving costs, and document replacement. More than \$600,000 went to the displaced families in two rounds of direct cash assistance, and close to \$170,000 was released to cover funeral costs, repatriation expenses, and direct assistance for the seven families that lost loved ones during the tragic event.

“Long Branch is a community that MHP has worked very closely with over the last 16 years. We were happy to be able to step in and connect all of our caring neighbors to the victims of the Flower Branch Apartments fire to provide the support they needed. I can’t thank the community enough for all they have done,” said Robert Goldman, MHP President.

The Long Branch Fire Fund officially closed on September 17<sup>th</sup>, and MHP can no longer accept donations restricted to the fund. With this final distribution of checks, all money in the Long Branch Fire Fund will be spent.

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### **About MHP**

For more than 25 years, Montgomery Housing Partnership (MHP) has created quality affordable homes in Montgomery County. It houses people, empowers families, and strengthens neighborhoods. Through its affiliates, MHP has developed nearly 1,700 affordable apartments, condos, and townhomes. It also works with residents to enhance the vitality of the neighborhoods where affordable housing is located, and implements Community Life Programs for its residents. It has been working in the Long Branch community for over 16 years. MHP is a chartered member of NeighborWorks® America. For more information on MHP, visit [www.MHPpartners.org](http://www.MHPpartners.org).