



SILVER SPRING CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

February 18, 2013

The Honorable Isiah Leggett
Montgomery County Executive
101 Monroe Street
Rockville, MD 20850

SUBJECT: SSCAB PRIORITY AREAS FOR FY14 BUDGET CONSIDERATION

Dear County Executive Leggett:

As you prepare the fiscal year 2014 Operating Budget for submission to the County Council, the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board would like to share with you our priority areas for budget consideration. The programs and services we are advocated in support of were derived from public comments made during your budget forum in Silver Spring on January 29, 2013, and from conversations expressed throughout the year during our SSCAB meetings with members of the Silver Spring and Takoma Park community.

We note the following operating budget priorities for FY14:

- **Maintenance of police presence in downtown Silver Spring.** The increased police presence in downtown Silver Spring has fostered an environment where crime continues to decline, providing an atmosphere of safety and comfort to residents and visitors.
- **Continuation of the civic building pilot program.** The need for places where community programs can be held will continue to grow into FY14 and beyond. The civic building pilot program has created positive results for the community and has made the civic building a more inviting space for organizations to meet and conduct their good work on behalf of our community residents. As the pilot program will enter its second year – thereby making the term “pilot” obsolete – I suggest calling it the Silver Spring Access Program (SSAP).

- **Increased funding for affordable housing initiatives.** The recent funding levels of the Housing Initiative Fund are of concern to residents in Silver Spring and Takoma Park. As our community continues to grow and redevelop it will become even more important to ensure that our housing stock reflects the socio-economic diversity of our current residential population. Our diversity is our strength.
- **Increased funding for positive youth development.** The Long Branch Athletic Association, the Asian American League and Community Bridges are just some of the youth groups that have expressed the need for continued funding in youth employment, academic enrichment, mentoring, positive identity and self-esteem programs. Youth development, supported by county funds, is vital to strengthening the social capital within our community.
- **Continuation of transportation funding.** Residents who have lived in our community for decades and those who are new arrivals all agree that access to transportation alternatives is a vital component of our area. And with many seniors deciding to age in place, funding for transportation services is a lifeline to the outside world. We demand safe streets, public transit and a functioning transit center.

We appreciate your consideration of these budget priorities that reflect the diverse needs of the neighborhoods we represent in Silver Spring and Takoma Park.

Sincerely,



Evan Glass
Chair, Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board

cc: Montgomery County Council