



SILVER SPRING CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

February 15, 2012

Dear County Executive Leggett:

As you prepare the Fiscal Year 2013 Operating Budget for submission to the County Council, the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board wanted to share some priority areas for budget consideration. We heard these themes during the January 12, 2012 Budget Forum that you presented at the Civic Building. Many of them dovetail with other items that the Board has supported with respect to budget resources in the Board's recent history.

We would like to note the following operating budget priorities for FY 13 from the Silver Spring community. We have grouped these into two major thematic areas.

First, the importance of funding for youth programs and services that support our young people continues to be a focus for the Silver Spring Community. Several young participants in the Long Branch Athletic Association pointed to the importance of continued funding for that type of organization in our community. Related to this, the funding for School Resource Officers is a priority for funding in the FY 13 budget. We continue to support programs that provide youth activities and support, as well as space for them to be in our community. Additionally, we appreciate the continued support for policy and public safety services funding in Silver Spring.

Secondly, we hope that funding for community programming is a part of the FY 13 operating budget. As in the past, the Board continues to support, programming funding for the Silver Spring Town Center Inc. as a viable non-profit to program the Silver Spring Civic Building. Additionally, we heard from the community about the importance of funding for ongoing, smaller community events as opposed to larger, one-time events. We support that concept and hope that budgeting can consider the need for ongoing activity for community members of all ages so that Silver Spring spaces are activated regularly.

We appreciate your consideration of these two thematic areas as you prepare the FY 13 Operating Budget. We appreciate all that you have done and continue to do for Silver Spring.

Sincerely,

Kathy Stevens
Chair, Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board