



**OUR MISSION:**

Working to enhance the economic prosperity of greater Silver Spring through robust promotion of our member businesses and unrelenting advocacy on their behalf.

**Bill 14-23 Late Night Business Safety Plan  
Public Hearing Testimony  
Tuesday, March 14, 2023**

Council President Glass, members of the Council. Good afternoon. For the record, my name is Jane Redicker and I am President of the Greater Silver Spring Chamber of Commerce, for one more week. I'm here today in support of Bill 14-23, that would require certain businesses, open to the public during the late night and early morning hours in "priority" police response areas, to obtain and operate under an approved business safety plan.

The Chamber has always been about making Silver Spring a thriving business community, a place where people want to live, work, and come to enjoy what so many of us love about Silver Spring – our wonderful arts and entertainment venues, our breweries, what I like to call our "United Nations" of restaurants, and our nightlife. All this, our diverse community, and our location, are the reasons so many people also want to live here.

We are committed to making Silver Spring safe, comfortable, and welcoming for everyone who lives, works, and visits here. It's why we have worked to nurture a long-standing partnership with the Third District Police officers to whom we entrust our public safety.

But we have been distressed about the increased violence that has invaded our community. Sadly, it's not just here, but here is where we live and work. That's why, in December of 2021, as many of you might remember, the Chamber brought together a group of business owners, residents, and County officials seeking to address the public safety challenges we had experienced, often associated with establishments that operate in the very late-night or wee hours of the morning.

We asked for a greater police presence in the area which, thanks to Chief Jones and the team at the Third District has made a huge difference. We asked for an interagency task force to jointly address violations and enforce laws currently in place. We asked for better security lighting and more cameras. And, we asked for legislation to make sure that establishments in places requiring a high police presence did their part to assure the safety of the overall community. This legislation is finally another important step toward a safer environment for all to enjoy.

A couple details to note: We ask that the "priority police response areas" be tightly focused, so as not to encompass those businesses that do not have a history of police response for violence. And, for businesses required to obtain and operate under a safety plan, we ask that the department take into account measures provided by the business's landlord – security cameras, additional lighting, and other safety protocols.

We want all businesses to succeed. And we believe that assuring a safe and welcoming environment for everyone is key to a thriving business community, a thriving Silver Spring, and a thriving Montgomery County. Safe for those who live here, who work here, and who come here to enjoy the wonderful amenities we have to offer.