

Dear County Council,

As an 85-year-old longtime resident of Silver Spring and most recently downtown Silver Spring, I am appalled at the lack of concern elected officials have for its most vulnerable residents— seniors and children. To allow several all-night businesses within the same block as a senior building including one directly across the way, that blasts loud music from 2-6am in the morning is unconscionable. Are there any rules or regulations set forth before an all night business can be given a permit? Or is this a free for all without regard for order? I can't have my grandnieces or nephews stay over for fear they are awoken at night like me to the constant noise disturbances. Seven days a week/24 hours a day, I can not be assured of peace because the council is more concerned about allowing certain businesses to stay open all night than it does about the welfare of me or my fellow senior citizens in the neighborhood. Nor is there concern for the children in the neighborhood who are not afforded a good night's sleep, so they function well in school.

So, NO – the Late-Night Business Safety Plan does not go far enough to address how the plan will be enforced or to address the issue of public safety and quality of life. It may serve business, but it does not serve the citizens who reside here.

Thank you for allowing me to express my concerns.

Sincerely,

L. Smit