

## LATE NIGHT BUSINESS SAFETY PLAN

Hello,

I am a resident of Lofts 24 located at the intersection of Bonifant and Fenton Streets in Silver Spring.

I raised four sons in Silver Spring and feel very connected to the city.

Living in Lofts 24 for the last several years has been a roller coaster ride.

I love the vibrancy, diversity, residential/commercial mix that the city offers.

I hate the fear, anxiety, and sadness that the city, its residents, business owners and visitors, have to deal with related to killings, carjackings, robberies, etc.

Crime is increasing in Silver Spring at an exponential rate and people are getting KILLED here on a REGULAR basis! My family has experienced THREE deaths outside our building over the last year. That's insane! It is very traumatic.

The city is in danger of dying if a life-line is not put in place.

It is imperative that Silver Spring gets the help it needs to not only survive but thrive.

So many people have invested in the city to allow it to be killed off by a few people doing bad things.

Please start the process of helping Silver Spring grow and blossom by initiating the late night business safety plan. This plan is a BASIC, FIRST step in the right direction.

I personally call the "non emergency" help line once/week and ask that someone be dispatched to one of the night clubs on Bonifant Street to enforce the noise ordinance. The noise is deafening and it happens between 2AM and 6AM on a nightly basis. This does not seem to be a prudent use of the police. Respect of the community and compliance with the law would be appreciated but neither of these things are happening.

As a real estate agent who wants to encourage people to move to Silver Spring and add to the complexity and vibrancy of the city, it is becoming more and more challenging to make deals happen here. Silver Spring's reputation is falling further and further into a dark hole. People are scared to move here. They do not want to raise a family in a city where crime is rampant and no one seems to care. They hear about the killings and car hijackings and decide to look at other areas where crime is not an accepted way of life. I am even thinking about whether or not to move. This thought makes me so sad. However, as an older woman, I know I am at a higher risk of experiencing crime. My twin granddaughters come over to my condo everyday and the fact that I have to consider whether or not they are safe here is a tragic reality that I have to face.

PLEASE pay attention to Silver Spring. It is a lovely place full of amazing people. It needs help.

A beginning step would be to pass the late night business safety plan.

We all need to work together to make sure Silver Spring becomes the thriving, healthy community it's meant to be. I'm on board, I hope you are too.

Thank you.

Ruth Schilling

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