

SILVER SPRING REGIONAL AREA

Monthly Report February 2017 *Reemberto Rodriguez, Director*

[1] COMMUNITY ISSUES

Potential hyper-local impact of new federal administration:

Given the new federal administration expressed intent, we expect impact in local matters to be most immediately felt in certain areas. Key Among these for the Silver Spring Regional Area are:

Immigration - We are working closely with the Office of Community Partnership, Police, and Faith congregations to ensure all community members know the County's commitment to our core values as a welcoming place. We are also in contact with Takoma Park, as they are a self designated Sanctuary City.

Affordable Care Act - Any changes to the Affordable Care Act will require intensive community conversations and education. We stand ready to work with our Health and Human Services Department to ensure all community members understand their options and how we can help.

Transportation - The Purple Line - while still in litigation - has been identified by the new federal administration as one of the top 50 "shovel ready" projects in the country. We are working closely with our County DOT, the State's MTA, the concessionaire that will build the Purple Line, and the affected communities and neighborhoods to ensure the construction schedule is shared with as much lead time as possible; and that there will be a simple, singular point of access for updates and information.

“Bill 19-15” (Landlord/Tenants Bill)

We are working with the Department of Housing and Community Affairs to help inform renters of the details of this new bill. We will be having a series of information sessions in the near future.

Parking Lot 3 Redevelopment

The construction of a new County garage as part of Studio Plaza (399 apartment units) has begun. We have held a series of convenings with area merchants and neighbors to ensure disruptions are minimized. However, there continues to be the perception in the community that their impact is significant. We are bringing together the various interest involved later this month. (This includes, among others, the County's Department of Permitting Services, the Department of Transportation, the developers, area merchants and neighbors.)

Development Process and Pipeline

Given all the recent developments announced, projects under construction, outstanding Request for Proposals, and projects planned for Silver Spring's downtown and vicinity, we are joining with Park and Planning to do an update on "what is going on (in the real estate development world) in Silver Spring" and "how an idea becomes a building". (Note: We try to do this at least once a year to ensure the public has a contextual sense of area developments.) We are also working with the Parks Department on their outreach for their "Parks of the Future" initiative as well as their plans for Acorn Park in particular.

NOTE: Last month's report included a list of the many issues we are involved in and tracking. This – and all other reports – are available at <http://montgomerycountymd.gov/silverspring/boardscommittees/cab/index.html>

[2] ADVISORY GROUPS

Citizens Advisory Board

The January meeting focused on better understanding the budget process to get ready for the budget forum, including a presentation by the Montgomery County Office of Management and Budget. The next meeting (scheduled for Monday, February 13th) will host Councilmember Riemer; and a presentation by the operators of the medical marijuana dispensary being built in the Fenton Village area of downtown. The three SSCAB Committees will meet on Monday, February 27th.

Urban District Advisory Committee

The January meeting included an update regarding the White Oaks development and its relationship to Silver Spring; and, a presentation by Susan Hoffmann, the staff producer of the Thanksgiving Parade, the Jazz Festival, and Summer Concert Series regarding these marquee events. The agenda for the next meeting (scheduled for Thursday, February 16th) includes a presentation by the Parks Department on the "Future of Parks"; and, a dialogue with the Montgomery County Office of Management and Budget regarding the budget process.

Arts & Entertainment Advisory Committee

The Committee last met to develop their letter of advice to the County Executive for the FY18 Operating Budget. Their next meeting is tentatively scheduled for March.