

## SSUDAC Meeting Summary October 21st, 2021

**Members Present:** Jay Elvove, Maggie Gessner, Juanita Stewart, Mel Tull, Jane Redicker, Diana Brown

**Members Absent:** Mussie Betre, Thomas Kaufmann, Carmen Camacho, Michael Larson

### **Call to Order and Introductions:**

- The meeting was called to order at 2:39 p.m.
- Discussion on changing meeting start time, new start time going forward will be 3:00pm on the third Thursday of every month

### **Blair Murals Festival:**

- A presentation was given on the new Murals at The Blairs featuring local and international artists.

### **Police Briefing & Crime Report**

Montgomery County Police, Third District

- Three businesses struck by stray rounds
- Shootings were targeted not random
- Fenton 3 am shootings: Shootings not linked
  - 35~ rounds fired
  - Video evidence being enhanced
  - Friday into Saturday, no one injured and not random. Two groups “having a beef”
  - Saturday into Sunday, individual shot initially uncooperative. Since been classified as a robbery that also has good video evidence.
- Seven officer crime suppression unit.
  - Officers also working in static positions that will be high visibility.
  - Garage patrols as garages are hotspots for some post-nightclub closing crimes.
- Working with fire marshals and permitting on overcrowding and overserving alcohol.
- Alleys blocked by cars parking near the entrance
  - More of a permitting situation than a police situation.
  - If it’s a safety concern then it’s a police concern
  - Police need to work with other agencies, like permitting or parking enforcement.
  - Juanita suggests it’s a DoT issue
  - Carson identified a number of the cars were business owners but not property owners.
- Jay raises concerns about speeding, dangerous driving, loud vehicles, etc especially in the presence of police who are not acting.
  - Statewide issue that needs a legislative solution
  - Traffic enforcement is down, police have recently reworked how

- traffic safety are addressed
- Central Traffic Division is working Georgia Ave, Colesville, and East West Highway. Local resources for neighborhoods.
- Proponent of automated enforcement (Speed cameras, red light cameras, etc)
  - Rules governing where automation can occur could be improved legislatively

### Update on Crisis Teams

James Gilmore, DHHS

- When in doubt call, a licenses therapist answers the phone.
  - Subjective as to what a mental health crisis is
  - Transient / Homeless population and others can refuse help from the crisis teams. No doesn't mean no forever however.
  - 40% of calls result in person being emergency petitioned (Danger to themselves (More often) or others)
    - A brief fix, released from the hospital in 3-4 days generally. An effective tool but temporary.
  - Police the number one group for referrals
  - Calls from the community are very much appreciated.
  - Two psychiatrists on staff that can get medication for people within 2 days.
  - Stressed again that people can refuse service.
  - Calls from other homelessness service providers mostly about specific individuals who may be worse off at the time.
- Silver Spring team is Monday through Friday, 7am till 11:00pm
  - 24/7 Backup from Rockville
- Out of 150 to the crisis teams, 48 were about Silver Spring. third of those the team does not make contact with the person
- Three teams: Germantown, Rockville, and Silver Spring. All have specific cellphones. Text picture of individual to that cell phone.
- Silver Spring team is not just DTSS, may range out to Olney. Teams shuffle and cover each other.
- Carson brings up an anecdote of a woman who was disrobing in public and moving into traffic dangerously. There is a delay and there needs to be a lot of information given. Still a 15-20 minute wait regardless of location of the team.
  - Immediate response expectation should not be set, they are *not* first responders.
- One number for all teams that will be dispatched to the location that can handle it.
- Crisis Number: 240-777-4000

### Thanksgiving Parade Update

Susan Hoffman

- Parade is on! November 20<sup>th</sup> at 10am from 1 Veterans Place and

- march out to Georgia Ave and then all the way south to Silver Spring Ave and then turn onto Silver Spring Ave and end there.
- Fears of under-attendance/lack of participants was unfounded, many marching bands, ballerinas, Bolivian Dancers, and others who've participated in the past are on board.
  - Will not be televised by news channel 8 and ABC 7
  - Invited the SSUDAC and SSCAB to sit in the VIP Grandstand.

### **SSUD Manager Report**

Carson Henry

- September Silver Spring Urban District Report Presentation
  - Brick is the number one repair and where it can be replaced with another material it will be.
  - These numbers are in addition to the regularly scheduled maintenance and cleaning
  - Contract Negotiation with supplier for specialized graffiti removal equipment
  - Documenting illegally parked vehicles in alley ways and other damages and violations
  - Storm Drain scan to prevent flooding
  - Call the urban district hotline. It's the quickest way to reach someone who can help you
  - Focus on Fenton Village and the CORE of downtown in September
  - Coordination with DOT for Purple Line, HAWK, and Pedestrian projects along Fenton St and Bonifant St.
  - Started interviews with Public Service Workers, outside work, staff
  - Implemented Team Leader opportunities and CAHOOTS training.
  - Two staff members enrolled in the National Green Infrastructure Certification Program
  - Efforts are ongoing and will never be finished as new issues arise over time
  - Tree pit overhaul in order, something that is best practice for Silver Spring

### **Discussion on Time of Meeting**

- Evening meeting floated to the group as an option.
  - Resident position candidates may not be able to attend during regular work hours.
- Discussion on 3:30 meeting start time
- Official Calendar Invite
- SSUDAC Openings are in the newsletter, being talked up by PSA Urban District staff, and personal outreach.
- Mid afternoon meeting make be bad for public participation.

### **Next Meeting Topics Discussion**

SSUDAC

- Pedestrian Master Plan
- Urban Park/Newell Street Closure w/ Activate Parks
- Proposal for DoT to take over Traffic Enforcement from MCPD, answer questions on Report (Joseph: County Council staff writers, legislative staff or DoT)
- Potential further cooperation with Transport Management District Board

Meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.