

SSUDAC Meeting Summary
April 17, 2014

Members Present: Ernest Bland, Dan Figueroa, Don Hague, Avi Halpert (for Yuri Van Mierlo), Mel Tull, Suzy Zusy

Members Absent: Carmen Camacho, Jon Lourie

Call to Order and Introductions:

- Mr. Don Hague, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:41 p.m.

Reports:

Police Briefing & Crime Report

Lt. Alan Felsen, Montgomery County 3rd Police Precinct

- Lt. Felsen reported on an increase in items stolen from inside automobiles parked at gas stations.
- There has been an increase in thefts from parked cars within County garages. Community Services Officers are patrolling the garages and mailing informational cards to car owners reminding them to secure valuables and make them less visible.
- The ribbon cutting for the new White Oak police station is scheduled for the first week of June. Officers will occupy the new station in either the second or third week of May.
- New officers for the Bike Patrol are currently being selected.
- Mr. Don Hague asked about the number of officers in the Urban District. Lt. Felsen stated that the Urban District is currently short staffed, but with the new academy class graduating in May, the District will receive at least 10 new recruits, with an additional 4-5 more possible.
- Ms. Suzy Zusy asked about the monitoring of the current police station once it's vacated. Lt. Felsen stated that the building will be fenced and gated, with doors that are on controlled access systems. The building is under video surveillance. Patrol officers may add the station to their patrol route.

New Montgomery Initiative

Lily Qi, Office of the County Executive

- Ms. Qi gave an overview of the County's goals and future projects, including positioning and branding it as a 21st century community.

- The County has grown enormously in the last 30-40 years. Racial shifts as well as a shift from a more suburban to urban area have had economic consequences.
- The area has also regionally shifted from focusing on the Bethesda/Chevy Chase area as a federal government support to an East County innovation focus.
- Focuses for the initiative include working on placemaking, attracting companies & talented individuals to the area, increasing the nighttime economy for all age ranges, and working to communicate the County's identity.
- The County is developing its biohealth identity, building on the presence of NIH and the FDA within the County. Montgomery County has approximately 50% of Maryland's biotech companies.
- The County is also working with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and other tech organizations in a \$10 million partnership to create a National Cybersecurity Center of Excellence focusing on civilian cybersecurity. The Center will engage federal institutions and increase economic benefits for the region.
- The Great Seneca Science Corridor contains the Montgomery County campus for Johns Hopkins University. The Corridor is also home to the Shady Grove Life Sciences Center (200 life sciences companies, a hospital, labs, and 2 universities). The Global Life Science Village surrounding the FDA (housing its consolidated regional science centers) will be expanded to approximately 1,000 acres in size and will add residential and retail developments.
- The County is working with residents, businesses and investors to assess the public opinion of the County's image.
- Work to develop the area's nighttime economy includes adding more city-like elements, with later hours for businesses and increasing density to bring nightlife closer to where people live.
- Mr. Ernest Bland mentioned the need to find a way to incentivize businesses to fill empty office space around the County. Ms. Qi stated that this is the goal of the MOVE Program, which works to sell office space for \$4 per square foot to new businesses moving in to currently vacant office spaces.
- Mr. Mel Tull spoke about empowering the underclass community and working to build housing for struggling low income populations. Ms. Qi stated that the County's goal is to increase the amount of high-paying jobs in the County, to increase opportunities for low-income workers to have access to better paying opportunities.

- Ms. Suzy Zusy asked about the Eastern area of the County and its development, including job growth. Ms. Qi stated that the White Oak science corridor will be part of the area that is developed around the FDA.

Urban District Report

Ms. Yvette Freeman, Chief of Operations, Silver Spring Urban District

- Ms. Freeman asked that the committee approve meeting minutes from the January, February and March meetings. Mr. Mel Tull motioned, with Mr. Ernest Bland seconding. The motion was passed unanimously.
- Ms. Freeman introduced Mr. Richard Bingham to the committee. Mr. Bingham is the Silver Spring Urban District's new Operations Manager.
- The Urban District has compiled a list of graffiti locations, trip hazards, broken curbs, potholes and other issues for submission to the appropriate agencies.
- The Urban District is preparing equipment for the coming warmer weather, as well as purchasing long-lasting, drought-tolerant plants and flowers for the downtown area. Ms. Freeman circulated pictures of the proposed greenery asked the committee for their opinions and any feedback.
- Ms. Freeman discussed the responsiveness of SHA to the Urban District's needs, in regards to the resurfacing of Georgia Ave. and the agency's replacement of bus pads in the area.
- Ms. Freeman mentioned the recent Cherry Blossom activities in Washington D.C., specifically noting the lack of trash removal during their weekend events. She emphasized her commitment to efficient removal of trash during and after all Urban District events.

Silver Spring Regional Area Director's Report

Mr. Reemberto Rodriguez, Director, Silver Spring Regional Center

- Mr. Rodriguez presented Ms. Freeman with her pin and certificate for five years of service to Montgomery County government.
- Mr. Rodriguez spoke to the committee concerning a letter of support for an area TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant for funding for the Purple Line. The letter would be sent in conjunction with letters of support from the University of Maryland and other area organizations. Mr. Mel Tull motioned for the committee to write the letter of support, with Mr. Avi Halpert seconding. The committee took time to discuss various concerns from committee members, including a question from Mr. Tull regarding a separate portion of the County's monetary support of the grant. The committee voted unanimously to write the letter.

- Taste The World in Fenton Village will take place on Sunday, May 4th.
- Peterson Companies will be hosting their Fiesta Asia, also on May 4th.
- Silver Spring, Inc. has organized a public Easter egg hunt in downtown Silver Spring for Sunday, April 20th.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:38 p.m.