

SSUDAC Meeting Summary
October 22nd, 2020

Members Present: Diana Brown, Jay Elvove, Michael Larson, Jane Redicker, Juanita Stewart, Mel Tull

Members Absent: Mussie Betre, Carmen Camacho, David Fogel, Thomas Kaufmann, Aaron Kayce

Call to Order and Introductions:

- The meeting was called to order at 11:03 a.m.
- The September meeting summary was unanimously approved.

Police Briefing & Crime Report

Montgomery County Police, Third District

- Officers reported on arrests made in the last month, including two people who were arrested in connection to a carjacking on October 6th, and an individual arrested for robbery/aggressive panhandling.
- Election safety is a priority of the department, and officers gave an overview of safety measures being prepared as a precaution.
- Denizens Brewery suffered a break-in, with no injuries or robbery reported.

Progress Place Update

Tom Hucker, County Council

- Councilmember Hucker and Legislative Aide Sara Wolfe joined the community to discuss homelessness in the downtown area and the impact of COVID-19.
- Reports of increased and aggressive panhandling have led to continued inquiries about improving security measures and security staffing around the urban district.
- Committee members expressed interest in and support of measures to install permanent bathroom facilities in various locations within the district, beginning with the Civic Building.
- Mr. Hucker stated his desire to continue improving the County's mobile crisis team with six additional social workers.

Arts & Entertainment Update

Elizabeth Gallauresi, Arts & Entertainment Coordinator

- Ms. Gallauresi gave an overview of the current status of approximately \$50,000 in arts & entertainment grants the Urban District has applied for.
- Facebook ads promoting safe mask usage, virtual and in person summer camps, retail shopping pickups and outdoor dining were utilized over the summer to keep the community engaged through lockdown.

Silver Spring Director's Report

Reemberto Rodriguez, Silver Spring Regional Director

- Mr. Rodriguez notified the committee of the upcoming capital improvements forum on October 28th.
- Mr. Rodriguez announced the retirement of the current Chief of Operations, Richard Bingham. Mr. Bingham's last day will be November 30th.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:39 p.m.