

SILVER SPRING REGIONAL AREA

Monthly Report JULY 2018 *Reemberto Rodriguez, Director*

[1] COMMUNITY ISSUES

Please see the next section - Advisory Groups – for additional community issues. Also: See previous Monthly Reports for information on: PEPCO, Purple Line, homelessness, emergency communications pole in Four Corners, and other issues.

Small Merchant and Business Support

We are working with the Purple Line Partners, MTA, DOT, and others to ensure business continue during the construction of the Purple Line through the Silver Spring Regional Area.

On Bonifant Street, meetings are being held with the merchants to design a logo for 'Discover Bonifant' which will be incorporated into directional signage.

Bonifant Street is also now eligible for business assistance funds due to the Studio Plaza development. At least 7 businesses have applied.

In Long Branch, we are working with the Long Branch Business League regarding directional signage as well. Some of the redirected \$300,000 will be used for this purpose.

In Montgomery Hills, we are working with the adjacent communities to provide advice to the Montgomery Hills / Forest Glen plan. A community driven design charette was conducted recently. The web-site developed by the Regional Area – which includes a merchants/business directory - will be updated soon.

South Silver Spring safety concerns

We are working with Councilmember Tom Hucker and the South Silver Spring Neighborhood Association (SSSNA) to address community concerns regarding the safety and security issues around some of the hotels in the area. This conversation is on-going and has included the Police, the State's Attorney, and others.

Oakview Neighborhood Action Team

A community meeting is being planned for later in the summer or early fall to update the ten issues identified through the Neighborhood Action Team. We are not waiting till then to take action. In some instances - particularly the safety and security issues and traffic and transportatio issues – County staff is already meeting with the community.

[2] ADVISORY GROUPS

Citizens Advisory Board

(The SSRSC Director is the principal staff to the Board and its three committees, Neighborhoods, Commercial Economic Development, and Transportation / Energy / Environment.)

At their last meeting, the SSCAB heard from David Petr, CEO of Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation and Kelly Groff, President and CEO, Visit Montgomery. Topics included: Update on Discovery Communications, how Silver Spring is marketed, and more.

On June 9th, the SSCAB, along with members from the SSUDAC and the SSTMD went on a 3 hour bus tour of the Silver Spring Regional Area. This bus tour was part of the new members orientation. The orientation will continue in August at a SSCAB retreat. (They will not meet in July.)

Urban District Advisory Committee

(The SSRSC Director oversees the operations of the Urban District and directly supervises its Chief of Operations.)

In June the SSUDAC members got together informally for a team building gathering and to plan their retreat, which will take place in August. (They will not meet in July.)

Arts & Entertainment Advisory Committee

(The SSRSC Director coordinates the work of the Committee.) The A&EAC will meet within the next couple of month – at a date to be confirmed. On the Agenda: An update on the proposed downtown Silver Spring Business Improvement District (BID); and a report on the State A&E District meeting that took place recently.

Transportation Management District

(The SSRSC Director is a non-voting member on the Committee.) The Committee met July 14th. The Agenda was an update on the bicycle plan for downtown Silver Spring; and a Purple Line update. (They will not meet in July.)

Other Institutional Engagement

The RSC Director represents the County in a series of other initiatives, institutions, and government sector, some of the most active include:

- Takoma Langley Commercial Development Authority. *(The SSRSC Director is ex-officio on the Board representing Montgomery County.)*
- Long Branch Partners. *(The SSRSC Director routinely attends this group.)*
- Long Branch Business League. *(The SSRSC Director routinely works with the LBBL on the many issues in the area.)*
- Silver Spring Town Center, Inc. *(The SSRSC Director is ex-officio on the Board representing Montgomery County.)*
- Purple Line Community Advisory Teams. *(The SSRSC Director routinely attends the CATs for Lyttonsville / 16th St., Silver Spring / Wayne Avenue, Manchester / Long Branch, and Takoma Langley.)*
- Bus Rapid Transit Community Advisory Committees. *(The SSRSC routinely attends the CACs for the US29 BRT project, focusing on the Central and South Committees.)*