

# SILVER SPRING REGIONAL AREA

Monthly Report    OCTOBER 2018    *Reemberto Rodriguez, Director*

## [1] COMMUNITY ISSUES

### **Mental Health in the Public Spaces**

There seems to be a marked increase in mental health incidents in public spaces throughout the Silver Spring Region. This includes loud outbursts, aggressive panhandling, and urinating and defecating in public spaces. This may be a much bigger, National issue. However, it is evident in our public spaces inside libraries and the Civic Building, and in outdoor public spaces where large number of people congregate (i.e.: Veterans Plaza, Ellsworth by the Fountain.) We are working with Health and Human Services to do a workshop/training for front line staff and private security companies on how to handle and address these situations promptly and empathetically. (We also recently created – in partnership with Interfaith Works – a map of social services in the downtown area.)

### **Late night activities**

While we promote a night-time economy in downtown Silver Spring, there seems to be an increasing number of establishments staying open well past 'last call' – 2 a.m. This has created an environment prone to compromising safety and security. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Police Precinct is working on this issue. We are also working with the Liquor Control Board to ensure compliance with existing regulations.

### **Beltway expansion**

The possibility of a Beltway expansion has sparked sharp civic action, including the revived group Citizens Against Beltway Expansion. While there were public workshops months ago, none were in the Silver Spring Regional Area. All the neighborhoods south of the Beltway – and Four Corners – in the Region could be heavily impacted by a Beltway expansion.

### **Takoma Langley business impact**

The Purple Line will traverse four small commercial hubs in the Silver Spring Regional Area: Takoma Langley; Long Branch; Bonifant St. (Fenton Village); and Brookville. Activities to address the construction disruption has focused mostly on impact in Brookville, Bonifant, and Long Branch. The complexity in addressing the impacts in the Takoma Langley area is compounded by the area's multi-jurisdictional nature. That is, only half the businesses in the area are in Montgomery County, in Takoma Park – the rest are in Prince George's County. The Purple Line Corridor Coalition at the University of Maryland will soon be convening a meeting of all small commercial corridors being impacted by the PL to facilitate these small commercial hubs learning from each other and consider opportunities to work together.

## **[2] ADVISORY GROUPS**

### **Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board**

Next meeting: Monday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 7pm, in the Civic Building. On the Agenda: Homelessness in the Regional Area; and Elections for the Board... Also of note: The Board has completed interviews for prospective members. Five names have been submitted to County Executive Leggett to consider recommending to the County Council.

### **Silver Spring Urban District Advisory Committee**

Next meeting: Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 3:30pm, Fire Station #1. On the Agenda: Updates on construction disruptions downtown by the Purple Line, PEPCO and WSSC... Also of note: Committee vacancies are being filled with new members. We expect to have a full Committee seated by the November meeting... Also: to complement similar action by the Silver Spring Arts & Entertainment Committee, the SSUDAC has submitted a letter advising an artistic 'barnes dance' (crosswalk in all directions) be installed on Fenton and Ellsworth when PEPCO finishes its work there and the road is resurface.

### **Silver Spring Transportation Management District**

Next meeting: Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, Discovery Building. On the Agenda: TBD... Also of note: The SSCAB has recommended two new members to the SSTMD. Action for approval should be completed for the November meeting.

### **Purple Line Community Advisory Teams (CATs)**

Dates for two of the four\* CATs in the Silver Spring Regional Area are set. \*The four CATs include: Lyttonsville & 16<sup>th</sup> St Stations; Transit Center, Library, & Dale Ave Stations (meeting set for October 25<sup>th</sup> at Sligo Creek Elementary School); Manchester & Piney Branch (Meeting set for October 16<sup>th</sup> at Oakview Elementary School); and, University Blvd & Takoma Langley.

### **Bus Rapid Transit Community Advisory Committees (CACs)**

Next meetings: Central US29 Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm, United Methodist Church; South US29 Tuesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm, Civic Building.

### **Silver Spring Arts & Entertainment Advisory Committee**

The Committee has submitted a letter advising an artistic 'barnes dance' (crosswalk in all directions) be installed on Fenton and Ellsworth when PEPCO finishes its work there and the road is resurface.