

February 22, 2021

**Testimony of UFCW Local 1994 MCGEO in Opposition to Council Bill 03-21 - Silver Spring  
Business Improvement District**

The members of Local 1994 MCGEO are against Bill 03-21 that would establish a Silver Spring Business Improvement District as currently written.

Local 1994 members work in public services in Montgomery County, Prince George's County and in other areas of Maryland. Strong public services are the foundation of strong, stable communities. Our members provide quality services to the people they assist, and they value that they provide equitable access to their services.

Council Bill 03-21 would privatize the current Urban District and offers no protection to the red shirts, Local 1994 members, who clean, care for, and offer services to Silver Spring visitors and residents. The red shirts struggled to become merit employees in the County. They fought and won employment protections and decent benefits from this Council. Many of you helped right that wrong. Now, this bill would throw away all those protections.

Throughout this pandemic, the Urban District employees have continued to show up for work. They've been essential employees, keeping the streets clean, clearing snow and helping visitors and business owners in Downtown Silver Spring. But this legislation as written, would outsource these dedicated employees and eliminate union jobs.

In addition, the Union has been contacted by many Downtown Silver Spring business owners who are concerned that the BID does not provide adequate representation for small and minority businesses.

This is government privatization – to the HIGHEST BIDDERS. This is not how any city government should work, especially in Montgomery County. It doesn't reflect our values. I urge rejection of the Silver Spring Business Improvement District.

Thank you,

Gino Renne  
President, UFCW Local 1994 MCGEO  
International Vice President, UFCW