

Sligo Park Hills is a residential community about one mile from downtown Silver Spring. The downtown area is a destination for our residents, for shopping, dining, public events, and entertainment.

The SPH Community Association's Board is in favor of Bill 3-24, which would regulate all late-night establishments in Silver Spring and elsewhere in the Montgomery County. We advocate for all late-night closing times to adhere to the same standard, no matter the nature of the establishment's sales – alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, etc. We also advocate for these closing times to not be later than any adjacent jurisdiction's corresponding regulations, specifically those closest to downtown Silver Spring, the District of Columbia and Prince George's County.

Extended late-night operating hours have correlated with increased street crime and calls to police, at a time when the MCPD is under-resourced.

Extended hours might increase the revenue of some specific establishments, but we believe that the absence of any regulation, or allowing establishments to stay open later than neighboring municipalities, will have a net negative effect on the economy of the rest of downtown Silver Spring. Every business in Silver Spring, including those that only operate during the day and early evening, will lose customers and revenue if the downtown district is perceived as unsafe. Bill 3-24 is a positive step toward preserving safe experiences in downtown Silver Spring.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.