

# ACLU Maryland

## Montgomery County Chapter

**Subject: Submission of First Amendment Petition: Save the Silver Spring Fountain!**

To: Ms. Tiara McCray, for Michael L. Paylor in his capacity as Hearing Examiner for AB-771  
100 Edison Park Drive, 4th Floor  
Gaithersburg MD 20878

Dear Ms. McCray,,

As authorized by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, we herewith submit a Petition for Redress of Grievances, for transmission to Mr. Paylor in his capacity as hearing examiner for AB-771.

This petition has been posted and managed on our behalf by [ipetitions.com](http://ipetitions.com). By their count, as of September 20 the petition has received 543 signatures, and 190 of the signers took the trouble to write comments.

We submit for the record a hard copy of the entire petition, together with a list of signers and their comments as received from [ipetitions.com](http://ipetitions.com)

The Petition has three parts:

1. The Text of the petition, entitled "Save the Silver Spring Fountain".
2. A list of signers.
3. The comments submitted by signers.

Please note that in addition to some 190 comments asking to save the fountain, there are 40 comments opposing the use of synthetic turf on Ellsworth drive.

Submitted for the Montgomery County Chapter, ACLU of MD:



Mike Mage, Co-Chair  
240-899-3312 C, 301-229-0470 H, [magem65@hotmail.com](mailto:magem65@hotmail.com)



- [iPetitions Sign or Join](#)

**Save the Silver Spring plaza fountain. Ensure Ellsworth Drive is not next step to gentrifying Downtown Silver Spring. 542 people have signed this petition. Add name now!**

**ACLU of Maryland Montgomery County Chapter [190 Comments](#)**



Did you know that [Downtown Silver Spring](#) has asked Montgomery County to allow them to [make major changes](#) to Ellsworth Drive between Fenton Street and Georgia Avenue?

While we generally applaud the expansion of public use space and reduction of traffic congestion in those areas, we must look at these plans in their entirety.

As they stand, [the plans](#) also include:

1. Ripping out the beautiful mosaic fountain that has been used by neighborhood kids as a summer wading pool for over 15 years.
2. Covering the street, sidewalk-to-sidewalk with synthetic turf, which would take away the street from the young neighborhood skaters and skateboarders who practice their skills there now.
3. Reducing bike access. Downtown Silver Spring claims they will maintain an open path for bikes, but their renderings in [Project Plan Amendment 91998005C](#), Site Plan Amendment 81999002M show the bike path obstructed by benches and tables.

Downtown Silver Spring is clearly trying to attract a more up-scale, genteel clientele to Ellsworth Drive. But this is exactly how gentrification happens - pushing people of color (Black, Latinx, etc.) and lower-income community members out of the area, reducing the rich diversity that makes Silver Spring what it is today.

Whatever happened to the racial equity and social justice required by [bill 27-19](#) that was passed by the County Council last December with an implementation date of August 1, 2020? Reducing options for foot, skating, and bike traffic, as well as a free alternative in the fountain to the high cost of many local - and often privatized - pools, runs counter to these proclaimed ideals of diversity and inclusion.

Help us send a message to County Executive Elrich and the County Council. Call on them to block or modify Project Plan Amendment 91998005C and Executive Order 084-20 to ensure that this is done.

1. First, sign this petition.
2. Second, [send a message directly to the County Executive](#) and [the County Council](#).
3. Third, be vocal on social media ([https://twitter.com/Marc\\_Elrich](https://twitter.com/Marc_Elrich) & <https://twitter.com/MoCoCouncilMD>).

Some developments are supportive of the growth of our community, but they cannot be at the expense of the diversity of our community. Let's keep Silver Spring and the County equitable, inclusive, and for the people.

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*The ACLU of Maryland, Montgomery County Chapter, [like the state affiliate](#), is committed to racial equity and social justice in all the work we do, in order to support and be accountable to communities of color, whose civil rights and civil liberties are systematically threatened.*

## **Signatures: 15 pages**

- Juan Del Valle United States
- Ben Prickril United States
- Beth Tomasello United States
- Holly Radice United States
- Brenda Braham United States
- Yamai J United States
- Tsion Bizuayehu United States
- Anfisa Wilson United States
- John Kester United States
- Deborah Qualls United States
- Joyce Matthews United States
- Belinda United States
- Ricky Styslinger United States
- Bill United States
- Professor Herbert United States
- Elizabeth Brett United States
- Donald Bosset United States
- Kayla Lee United States
- Surafel United States
- Anton Attard United States
- Grace Bellamy United States
- Claire Bellamy United States
- Mila Johns United States
- Tina Parisi United States
- Sarah Guise United States
- Enrique Veras United States
- Zoe McCullough United States
- Karen Jackson United States
- Mireille Fanor United States
- Rebecca Cary United States

- Lauren Edwards United States
- Megan McNitt United States
- Jane Lyons United States
- Colleen Fanelli United States
- Fateema Alonzo United States
- Kristen United States
- Kevin Madigan United States
- Rhonda Ferguson-Augustus United States
- Danielle Brooks United States
- Bethany George United States
- Aminata T Kamara United States
- Francine Corbett-Voltz United States
- Richard Lucey United States
- Melissa Voellinger United States
- Deborah Fuentes United States
- Barbara Tomar United States
- Yohannes ibraham United States
- Jose Lopez Velez United States
- Daniel Press United States
- Douglas Olinger United States
- Jessica Arnold United States
- Megan Thompson United States
- Dawn Vignola United States
- Karen Mendez United States
- Pablo Izquierdo United States
- Jaryn Colbert United States
- Jimmy Rogers United States
- Nathan Temesgen United States
- Adrienne Moumin United States

- Danalee A Casey United States
- Brendan Carroll United States
- Ryan I Green United States
- Tsegaye Mulugeta United States
- Avi Mandell United States
- Kathryn Starnes United States
- Josiah Altschuler United States
- Andrea Callahan United States
- Erick Salmeron United States
- Dakota Lee United States
- Daniel Roque United States
- Nadia Ruiz United States
- Ashley Bond United States
- Stacy Raley United States
- Liora United States
- Irina Golovanich United States
- Kimber Veltri United States
- Gabriel Wonderling United States
- Semhar United States
- Silvana Bello United States
- Mary C Hart United States
- Nnebunne Abanobi United States
- Gizaw United States
- Laurie Crowe United States
- Suzanne Bond United States
- Lisa Crowe United States
- Ben Chartoff United States
- Lauren Cleland United States
- Osner Chery United States
- Jessicah Zulu United States

- Edem Aba United States
- Derrick Crowe United States
- Jamie United States
- Karen Guevara United States
- Kelley T Holley United States
- Riley Casey United States
- Aleko Kontos United States
- JESSICA DEICHMANN United States
- Nathaniel Gailey-Schiltz United States
- Jack McAuliffe United States
- Maureen Popdan United States
- Shana Ainsfield United States
- Sharon Sickafuse United States
- James Schmidt United States
- Sabrina United States
- Toby Pond United States
- Marco A Quezada United States
- KATHLEEN M HALL United States
- Stephanie Strube United States
- Amber K Boehm United States
- octavio ballali United States
- Varinia Goodman United States
- Hebra rush United States
- Bianca Pastran United States
- Teresa Dickinson United States
- Elisa Zeng United States
- Wilbert Battle United States
- Travis Smith United States
- Calvin Jordan United States
- Damien Sandidge United States



- Judith K Ferguson United States
- Adrielle Darby United States
- Shakeba Williams United States
- Richard Lorr United States
- Ingrid Denis United States
- chris United States
- vanessa United States
- Daniel Handwerker United States
- Suzanne Pollak United States
- James Griffin United States
- Lauren Murphy United States
- Albert Myers United States
- Jhanine Trigo United States
- Mark Posner United States
- Cindy Beck United States
- Donnie Bell United States
- Etzy Salazar-Lopez United States
- Sarah Bram United States
- Nan McCoy United States
- Wendy King United States
- Amanda Phelps United States
- Carissa Marks United States
- Ellen United States
- Barbara Henderson United States
- Karla Koebernick United States
- D McClurkin United States
- Viviana Azar United States
- P Fried United States
- Melanie Ann Figg United States
- Hannah Myers United States

- John R Jackson United States
- Ameena Mohammad United States
- Aleksandra Burtseva United States
- Eve Jenkins United States
- Tara Egan United States
- Eric Metreau United States
- Carrie Smith United States
- Sandra Schmidt United States
- Sandra Lane United States
- Connor Doherty United States
- Jessica Landman United States
- Franca Brilliant United States
- Lisa Blighton United States
- Sara Nathan United States
- David Weinreich United States
- Paula Schulman United States
- Devora Kimelman-Block United States
- Dan Reed United States
- Kevin Cyrus United States
- Hazel Huey United States
- Sharon Johnson United States
- Deborah L Smith United States
- Stephen Omokehinde United States
- Katerdude Schrock United States
- Rick Peuser United States
- Linda Norkin United States
- Mary Hunt United States
- Mary Beth Corrigan United States
- Kirsten Stade United States
- Steph Brown United States

- Graham Copp United States
- Susan Farr United States
- Anne Overholt United States
- Shannon Wulf Tregar United States
- Lois wessel United States
- Jacquelin Sprague United States
- Helen United States
- Brian McCoy United States
- Phillip Kurs United States
- Devon Melville United States
- Steve Warner United States
- Michelle Maxberry United States
- Etsegenet United States
- Caroline Griswold Short United States
- Susan Westenbarger United States
- Erika United States
- Elissa Lichtenstein United States
- Jennifer Lancaster United States
- Steven Gibb United States
- Julie Huff United States
- Bill Wax United States
- Zachary Cross United States
- Lynne Adrine United States
- Lindsey marinello United States
- Annie Tulkin United States
- kurt masse United States
- Herbert and Josefa Casey United States
- Kathy Napierala United States
- Greta Etherton United States
- Tanya United States

- **Jamel Daugherty United States**
- **Mary Sprague United States**
- **Robin Katcher United States**
- **Jerry A McCoy United States**
- **Constance Chang-Gillespie United States**
- **Vanessa Prell United States**
- **Susan Gleason United States**
- **Suzanne Meteyer United States**
- **Lorraine Hutchins United States**
- **Kelly O'Keefe United States**
- **Megan scribner United States**
- **Lisa Anderegg United States**
- **Melanie Travers United States**
- **Susan Miller United States**
- **Kathleen United States**
- **Carrie United States**
- **Ryan United States**
- **Cynthia Tenicela United States**
- **SUSAN Loftus United States**
- **Christopher Moses United States**
- **Diana Conway United States**
- **Renee K Gamez United States**
- **Mike Little United States**
- **Ann Kempiski United States**
- **Ann Foxen United States**
- **Bob Brown United States**
- **Yen Hoang United States**
- **Anthony Vernon United States**
- **Eli Archer United States**
- **Stephanie Archer United States**

- Joanna Silver United States
- Christy Braddock United States
- Anna DeNicolo United States
- Elaine Wunderlich United States
- Elizabeth T McMeekin United States
- Sharon S Rising United States
- Merna wagshal United States
- Catherine Honigsberg United States
- James Henkelman-Bahn United States
- Cecily United States
- Isabella Majarowitz United States
- Tsedal United States
- Charlotte Schoeneman United States
- Elaine Marie United States
- Segun Adebayo United States
- Dayo Akinsheye United States
- Zoe Bell United States
- Jordyn United States
- Michelle B United States
- olivia United States
- Haelee United States
- Regina Balcazar United States
- Sophia Burke United States
- Tricia Gomez United States
- Thalia Tran United States
- Indigo Sharp United States
- Tara Smith United States
- Ariel Fromm United States
- Toby Lowe United States
- Emma Bueler United States
- Karen Lange United States

- Anna Ghambaryan United States
- Kathleen Michels United States
- PHYLLIS GOLDFARB United States
- Robert Peters United States
- Natala Covert United States
- Seth Grimes United States
- Tamara Laird United States
- Emily Zeller United States
- Kathryn Desmond United States
- Dolores McDonagh United States
- Elizabeth Maury United States
- Nora Buckley United States
- Joel Iams United Kingdom
- Isoline Sanderson United States
- Candace Groudine United States
- Elizabeth V Bouras United States
- Betsy Berlin United States
- Kay Gorman United States
- howard iams United States
- Paula Okeefe United States
- Tyler Todmann United States
- Michael Arden United States
- Sanjida H Rangwala United States
- Sarah Clark United States
- Eileen O'Connor United States
- Kathleen Williams United States

- Tonia Bleam United States
- Lauren Supplee United States
- Sarah Quinn United Kingdom
- Zélie Quinn United Kingdom
- Nina Garfield United States
- Benjamin United States
- Allie Segal United States
- Laura Foradori United States
- Laurieann Duarte United States
- Hedy Clark United States
- Kate United States
- LuAnn McKinney United States
- Corinne Goldsmith United States
- Minal Bopaiah United States
- Sharon Lutz United States
- Mina schwartz United States
- Anne Lessin United States
- Betsy Hamm United States
- margie United States
- Lee Jamilkowski United States
- Lydia Fleischmann United States
- Mary Allin United States
- Rachel Braun United States
- Richard Albores United States
- Bob Geier United States
- Merryl Azriel United States
- Lisa Vogel United States
- Caroline Linde United States
- Eric Cathcart United States
- Soph United States

- William D James United States
- Tracy United States
- Theresa clark United States
- Allison Oh United States
- Anna White United States
- Julie Zavala United States
- Janet M McNaughton United States
- Krista United States
- Maggie Lora United States
- Victoria Balenger United States
- Kirsten Mage United States
- Rose Mage United States
- Laura Delaney United States
- Idris Mokhtarzada United States
- Nadia United States
- Katya Partan United States
- Jon Lowe United States
- Navarana Reck United States
- Anne Ketter United States
- Kathleen Staudt United States
- Anna Baldwin United States
- Jayne Holt United States
- Carlean Ponder United States
- Sawa Kamara United States
- Elaine R Weiss United States
- Carey Creed United States
- Paul Salipante United States
- Dawn Barton United States
- Christoper Baty United States
- T Grebowsky United States
- Kristen Hudgins United States



- Consuelo A Grier United States
- Diane Jackson United States
- Eunice Bulgaria
- Marcelle Fozard United States
- Mimi Diez United States
- Roy United States
- Gail Weiss United States
- Alex Lorch United States
- Christa George United States
- Pamela Strassburg United States
- David Martone United States
- Bailey Whiteman United States
- Sara Rahnama United States
- Dreen Maahs United States
- Subha Nagasubramanian United States
- Golam Hossain United States
- Jadwiga Furdyna United States
- Marcy Hairston United States
- Briana Adams United States
- Anne Catherine Sen United States
- Marta Antonetti United States
- Lauren Posten United States
- Abbi Lichtenstein United States
- Becky Wasserman United States
- Kate Yoo United States
- Michelle Gregos United States
- Katie Bocock United States
- Ryan McDermott United States
- Gony Goldberg United States
- Justine Addison United States

- Acacia Jackson Vance United States
- Paula Amann United States
- michele bollinger United States
- Veronica Funes United States
- Carol Ehrlich United States
- Jordan McAuliff United States
- Robyn Schofer United States
- Jodi L Bierlair United States
- Kristina Campbell United States
- Katie United States
- Leslie Jenkins United States
- Steve Park United States
- Roland Follot United States
- Jason Rhee United States
- Shilpa Alimchandani United States
- Berdina Henry United States
- Natasha Bonhomme United States
- Irena Carroll United States
- Patty Campos United States
- Rebecca Viser United States
- Valerie United States
- Sarah Moore United States
- Jennifer Johnson United States
- Melanie Davis United States
- Cecilia Plante United States
- Wendy kleiner United States
- Linda Jacobs United States
- greg thomas United States
- Wendy Beigel United States

- Mike Mage United States

- Joe Shaffner United States

- Roxanne Weiss United States

-



## **Part 2. Petitioners' Comments**

**Unusual for petitions, 190 petitioners (over 1/3 of the total) took the time and trouble to leave comments, and over 1/4 of the petitioners left comments specifically saying how they loved the fountain and want it saved.**

542 Signatures by Petitioners, as of September 22, 2020

190 Comments by Petitioners. as of September 12, 2020

144 Petitioners specifically asked for the fountain to be saved

41 Petitioners specifically said No to artificial turf.

Some asked to save the fountain AND said No to artificial turf.

Mike Mage

- **Ben Prickril**  
Sep 20, 2020  
Save the fountain!
  
- **Anonymous**  
Sep 20, 2020  
Please save the beautiful fountain for our children. Water play is both enjoyable and educational.
  
- **Anonymous**  
Sep 19, 2020  
I implore Montgomery County to retain control over Ellsworth drive. Developer Peterson Companies have not been good partners nor neighbors. I want the splash pad to be retained and the street to remain uncovered so that the farmers market and skateboarders can continue enjoying the space. NO to Developer Peterson Companies.
  
- **John Kester**  
Sep 18, 2020  
Plastic grass is a very bad idea in so many ways. How about permeable pavers! The play fountain is fun for many. I thought the county wanted to be environmentally responsible and diversity friendly.
  
- **Anonymous**  
Sep 18, 2020  
Save our fountain please! No to ugly synthetic turf!

- **Deborah Qualls**  
Sep 18, 2020  
It is important to keep the Silver Spring fountain! There is no reason to remove it!
- **Joyce Matthews**  
Sep 18, 2020  
The kids love the fountain. It makes them happy and lately happiness is hard to come by.
- **Bill**  
Sep 18, 2020  
It needs to stay!
- **Professor Herbert**  
Sep 18, 2020  
Humanity is why I live and shop in Downtown Silver Spring. I'm not here for and because of industry. The people make the place. The Plaza Fountain brings the people.
- **Elizabeth Brett**  
Sep 18, 2020  
The proposed changes to the plaza are not well thought out. The inclusion of astroturf doesn't recognize the issues with astroturf being a filth and disease vector which requires extensive upkeep. The fountain is an absolute joy that should be preserved. The plaza echoes the plazas in which communities gather around the world with a water element beneficial to all residents both human and animal. In addition, skateboarders and bikers are a wholesome part of our community. Too many crusty "adults" bam skateboarders and try to push them out. Montgomery County is about inclusion not exclusion. Please revisit the redesign of the plaza to consider what our community really wants and needs, not just what developers hope to profit upon.
- **Grace Bellamy**  
Sep 18, 2020  
This is literally one of the only reasons I go downtown with my daughter. It would be a shame to remove it!
- **Claire Bellamy**  
Sep 18, 2020  
This is my favorite street in silver spring & my children love to play in the fountain.
- **Mila Johns**  
Sep 18, 2020  
Anyone who has a child in the area has experienced the simple joy they get from the fountain! To do away with it for artificial turf is utterly absurd; give kids places to be kids!

- Rebecca Cary  
Sep 17, 2020  
I'm a longtime Silver Spring resident without kids who nevertheless supports maintaining this fountain as a central community gathering spot. As an aside, I believe the area is already quite gentrified, and I support more independent retail and restaurants and fewer tired mega-chains.
- **Lauren Edwards**  
Sep 17, 2020  
I can't believe there's even a suggestion to remove the fountain - it's the community centerpiece of Silver Spring! If you're looking for something to change, update that dead, sleepy Ellsworth Place mall.
- **Anonymous**  
Sep 17, 2020  
Please keep the mosaic fountain and play area in downtown Silver Spring. A day shopping downtown can give one brain fog. The joy of children playing in the fountain draws you in and refreshes you for more shopping. People sitting on benches just doesn't do that. Keep the fountain and play area!
- **Barbara Tomar**  
Sep 17, 2020  
Love watching kids play in fountain. My grandsons - 3 and 5 really enjoy on a hot day at the farm market
- **Daniel Press**  
Sep 17, 2020  
it's an iconic part of the city that can't be replaced
- **Megan Thompson**  
Sep 17, 2020  
Please keep the splash fountain! It is a beautiful design and wonderful place for kids to play.
- **Megan McNitt**  
Sep 17, 2020  
The fountain is wonderful. I live in Takoma Park/Silver Spring. It would be a loss if the fountain were removed.
- **Rhonda Ferguson-Augustus**  
Sep 17, 2020  
Keep Silver Spring the way it is!
- **Melissa Voellinger**  
Sep 17, 2020  
I lived there from the late 30's to the late 70's, on Ellsworth and Pershing Drives. I have

many fond memories of Silver Spring.

- **Yohannes ibraham**  
Sep 17, 2020  
save the fountain!
- **Dawn Vignola**  
Sep 17, 2020  
The area can use a face lift, but synthetic turf and taking out a beautiful mosaic fountain in which children play is not the answer. Where was the opportunity to provide feedback?
- **Anonymous**  
Sep 17, 2020
- That fountain brings joy to so many kid during the summer. Also how will this impact the weekend farmers market?
- **Kristen**  
Sep 17, 2020  
Save the fountain. Never been but looks amazing
- **Deborah Fuentes**  
Sep 17, 2020  
I took my two oldest Kids there all the time when they were little and was hoping to do the same with my youngest ones when all this covid stuff is over please don't get rid of this. Stop trying to change the diversity and Silver Spring it's what makes it at such a wonderful place.
- **Anonymous**  
Sep 17, 2020  
I honestly don't understand why synthetic turf is better than the wading pool and just a street which people can walk or skateboard. It is such a turn out since the wading pool was the biggest reasons why we went to eat there. Leave the wading pool and you just put tables and chairs for the crowd to sit and chat. That's much hygiene than synthetic turf.
- **Anonymous**  
Sep 17, 2020  
Save the fountain!!!!
- **Jessica Arnold**  
Sep 17, 2020  
Removing the lovely fountain and putting in artificial turf will not only take away a spot for kids to play, but also make the area less beautiful.



- **Karen Mendez**  
Sep 17, 2020  
You talk the talk, now walk the walk. Covering this section of roadway with artificial material will reduce the amount of naturally absorptive land in our community. It will lead to more runoff which will need to be addressed later. It will be another step towards fake green space and the end of natural, inclusive space. Bikers, boarders, and walkers can all access the current pavement. Please don't take that shared space away from our families. The fountain is another area in which families of all persuasions meet. We need more, not fewer, inclusive opportunities. Inclusion and being green is more than rent control and fake green material. Walk the walk.
- **Adrienne Moumin**  
Sep 17, 2020  
County owned property belongs to the citizens- NOT to the developers who don't have to suffer the results of their insinuations.
- **Danalee A Casey**  
Sep 17, 2020  
Change is the only constant in life and I appreciate the plan to create more open space. The beautiful fountain has been a comfort to our kids for years and it would be deeply missed
- **Tsegaye Mulugeta**  
Sep 17, 2020  
Save the fountain!
- **Josiah Altschuler**  
Sep 17, 2020  
I remember going to the movies up there as a kid in the early 2010s, and the image of this fountain has burned itself into my mind. It just made the whole area feel more...alive? Happy? It would be a real shame to have it be removed.
- **Erick Salmeron**  
Sep 17, 2020  
please keep the fountain going
- **Liora**  
Sep 17, 2020  
This fountain is the heart and soul of Downtown Silver Spring. Please don't remove it!
- **Kimber Veltri**  
Sep 17, 2020  
Families enjoy letting their kids play their and I know it's a summer oasis for a lot of kids who can't afford access to a pool. It's also super cute. Don't take it away. The new downtown will still look great if it stays

- **Gabriel Wonderling**  
Sep 17, 2020  
save the fountain plz
- **Mary C Hart**  
Sep 17, 2020  
The fountain is the heart of downtown Silver Spring and is an essential draw for all families. It it's necessary as is the creativity and joy of the skateboarders. Don't get rid of either!!!
- **Nnebunne Abanobi**  
Sep 17, 2020  
Keep the fountain please.
- **Anonymous**  
Sep 17, 2020  
I freaking love this pond
- **Gizaw**  
Sep 17, 2020  
The silverspring fountain plaza it very nice for kids and people are enjoyed to seating and getting rest
- Nice view. Please keep it.
- **Osner Chery**  
Sep 17, 2020  
Please keep it for the sake of the Kids.
- **Derrick Crowe**  
Sep 17, 2020  
We need to keep that fountain and the area for local skaters. We LOVE the community that those amenities pull in and it's part of the community identity.
- **Anonymous**  
Sep 17, 2020  
no artificial turf either
- **Anonymous**  
Sep 17, 2020

This fountain is an important community feature.

- **Riley Casey**

Sep 16, 2020

The cover photo of dozens of kids enjoying the splash pad tells us all we need to know about the idea of removing it. DTSS is an urban area and needs to be treated as one. Close Ellsworth to motor vehicles with sturdy bollards and open it to the people who walk and bike thru it as people do in every genuinely walkable, livable city. Slow down the traffic on the intersecting streets, reduce the lanes on Georgia Ave and Colesville Rd to make driving less attractive and transit more so. Time to get serious about making Silver Spring and MoCo more widely suited to people rather than large metal boxes.

- **Anonymous**

Sep 16, 2020 1

This where I go when am stressed. This is where I go when am home sick. This is where I sit and make insight. This is where I take my son. This place is not just a place. Please, keep that fountain, at least.

- **Sharon Sickafuse**

Sep 16, 2020

Keep the fountain & no disgusting plastic astroturf.

- **James Schmidt**

Sep 16, 2020 2

The current configuration provides a place to gather, a place for children to play, and a place where teenagers can gather safely and wholesomely. The new configuration looks like a plan to eliminate these community benefits in favor of corporate interests. I expect our government to continue to prioritize quality of life first. It is what makes this county great. Please don't ruin it!

- **Marco A Quezada**

Sep 16, 2020

Keep it, darn it.

- **KATHLEEN M HALL**

Sep 16, 2020 1

Please keep the fountain, my children have grown up with it and it is one of our favorite place.

- **Amber K Boehm**

Sep 16, 2020 1

"The fountain is a significant part of the city's charm. It's useful, fun, and therapeutic

during the hot summers. It's a place I feel community. Keep it right where it is." Thank you, Karla. I wholeheartedly agree. Also: consider a more environmentally friendly alternative to plastic turf.

- **octavio ballali**  
Sep 16, 2020  
save the fountain!!! Please!!!!
- **Varinia Goodman**  
Sep 16, 2020  
i have lived across from ellsworth place for almost 9 years. The fountain and skateboarders are a staple of our community.
  - Save the fountain!
  - I love walking by to get lunch or coffee in the summer and here the children's laughter as they play in the water. Please save the fountain
- **Bianca Pastran**  
Sep 16, 2020 1  
We love this fountain area and would be really sad to see it go!!! Where else in this area is there such an awesome place to chill out w the kiddos in the middle of shopping & eating?!?
- **Teresa Dickinson**  
Sep 16, 2020 2  
If for no other reason but
  - FOR THE CHILDREN.
- **Damien Sandidge**  
Sep 16, 2020  
NOT MY SILVER SPRUNG!!! (those who know - know)
- **Judith K Ferguson**  
Sep 16, 2020 2  
Love seeing the children playing in it! Makes me joyful!
- **Shakeba Williams**  
Sep 16, 2020 1  
Save it! Do not remove it!
- **Richard Lorr**  
Sep 16, 2020 1  
Please protect the community from the installation of environmentally hazardous and unaesthetic synthetic turf in our streets and please ensure that any further abandonment of the County's rights in upper Ellsworth Drive protect our First Amendment rights to petition, protest, and assemble In this area even the developers seek to prevent us from

doing so.

- **Ingrid Denis**

Sep 16, 2020

I think it should be extended and made safer for the children. The idea of adding synthetic turf to the street is entirely unappealing.

- **Daniel Handwerker**

Sep 15, 2020

While there can be good discussion on better ways to use the space, the kids playing in the fountain in normal Summers and the community that gathers around them is a clear success. Why mess with the one part of this plaza that's clearly working well?

- **James Griffin**

Sep 14, 2020

Let's try to build a society which supports humanity, and turn away from public welfare to corporate business, which collaterally crushes

- the poorest and neediest.

- **Cindy Beck**

Sep 14, 2020

Please no AstroTurf. Please keep the lovely fountain that the kids so enjoy. It's one of the very few places in downtown that has any feeling of liveliness.

- Diana Conway

Sep 14, 2020

NO synthetic turf on Ellsworth! Do NOT glue 8,000+ square feet of plastic grass to Ellsworth. Why not? It's hot, toxic, unsanitary & creates massive plastic pollution. Hot: Synturf reaches into 170s on hot sunny days. Toxic: synturf grass contains lead, plus PFAS (even Trump's EPA is freaked out about PFAS), PAHs, VOCs, SVOCs .

Unsanitary: Synturf is known to harbor MRSA and other staph infections. COVID-19 lives 3+ days on plastic. So must be cleaned frequently with harsh chemicals to remove blood, vomit, dog/bird feces, urine, sticky food & drinks. Or if it's not cleaned enough? Synturf is really good at growing pathogens for dogs & kids to roll around on while you eat. ! And it's a petroleum product-- no more plastic. As the plastic synturf wears down it washed into our stormdrains as micro-plastic pollution! Put in benches & movable planters if you want people to linger.

- And what about skateboarders? What about people on crutches or in wheelchairs?

- **Nan McCoy**

Sep 13, 2020

If fountain is removed, then there must be another location developed for the people who are still living through constant upheaval. Developers look down on local residents who

have stuck with a constant mess and no goal shared with them.

- **Wendy King**  
Sep 13, 2020  
Pro biking, skateboarding and fountain for all
- **Amanda Phelps**  
Sep 13, 2020 1  
Astroturf is disgusting, fake, tacky, and bad for the environment. Really just a bad idea all around.
- **Barbara Henderson**  
Sep 13, 2020  
This is one of the busiest spots in the summer. C'mon!
- **Karla Koebernick**  
Sep 13, 2020  
The fountain is a significant part of the city's charm. It's useful, fun, and therapeutic during the hot summers. It's a place I feel community. Keep it right where it is.
- **Melanie Ann Figg**  
Sep 13, 2020  
ridiculous idea to get rid of this fountain! stop trying to make Silver Spring something that looks like everywhere else.
- **Eve Jenkins**  
Sep 12, 2020  
Please do not change the plaza or fountain. It is wonderful the way it is and a great amenity, both for kids and the kidless who just like to see happy neighbors. Such a nice community spot.
- 
- **Carrie Smith**  
Sep 12, 2020  
I love this fountain and so do my kids!! It's a wonderful place.
- **Anonymous**  
Sep 12, 2020  
Montgomery County approved the turf and Core plan on Ellsworth on July 2, 2020
- **Lisa Blighton**  
Sep 12, 2020

Save the fountain and the street for skaters!

- **Paula Schulman**  
Sep 12, 2020  
Just permanently close the street to cars. Don't touch the mosaic!
- 
- **Kevin Cyrus**  
Sep 12, 2020  
Please keep the water fountain in downtown Silver Spring. The proposed changes will take away what little soul the area has now.
- **Deborah L Smith**  
Sep 12, 2020
- The fountain is one of the highlights of today's Silver Spring. Don't remove it.
- **Anonymous**  
Sep 12, 2020  
BLM!
- **Jessica Landman**  
Sep 12, 2020  
We need to keep the things that make those without spare cash STILL feel welcome and included. Why would you take out the wonderful fountain?? Please keep Silver Spring inclusive and diverse.
- **Stephen Omokehinde**  
Sep 12, 2020  
To retain the water fountain in downtown Silver Spring
- **Franca Brilliant**  
Sep 12, 2020  
The fountain brings so much joy to the kids and anyone watching them--pleasd don't remove it. Think about who benefits from what is there now.
- **David Weinreich**  
Sep 12, 2020  
Keep dtss for all!
- **Katerdude Schro k**  
Sep 12, 2020  
This fountain is the life blood of DTSS in the summer. Why would you get rid of it?!?!?!?
- **Anne Overholt**  
Sep 11, 2020  
I like to bike downtown and would like to see this street remain unchanged.

- **Steve Warner**  
Sep 11, 2020  
I hate gentrification as it squeezed out others as in climate change
- **Susan Westenbarger**  
Sep 11, 2020
- Keep downtown Silver Spring the unique diverse place it is now! Any upgrades or changes should prioritize maintaining the current mix of community uses first and foremost. Say No to gentrification!
- **Erika**  
Sep 11, 2020  
Let it stay
- **Elissa Lichtenstein**  
Sep 11, 2020  
Do NOT destroy the welcoming gathering places on Ellsworth Drive! The plaza and fountain, for instance, are a significant community draw, not only for kids and their families but also for shoppers. The new plans are a serious mistake.
- **Anonymous**  
Sep 11, 2020  
This fountain has meant a lot to families before I even moved into the neighborhood years ago. It's an important mainstay of the community. Keep the springs in Silver Spring!
- **Anonymous**  
Sep 11, 2020  
Keeping access to the fountain is important to give kids a free place to play.
- **Zachary Cross**  
Sep 11, 2020  
Don't ditch the fountain!
- 
- **Lynne Adrine**  
Sep 11, 2020  
I moved to Silver Spring from Bethesda 7 years ago. Don't turn downtown Silver Spring into what I was trying to escape.
- **Annie Tulkin**  
Sep 11, 2020  
Synthetic turf is toxic. The developers have not put out a plan for recycling the toxic turf once it needs to be replaced in eight years. We can't allow plastic "green space".



- **Kathy Napierala**  
Sep 11, 2020  
Keep the fountain! It's a wonderful summer gathering place and gives all children equally a chance to enjoy the water!
- **Jamel Daugherty**  
Sep 11, 2020  
Save the splash pad!
- **Vanessa Prell**  
Sep 11, 2020  
Please keep these neighborhood features that kids love!
- **Anonymous**  
Sep 11, 2020  
Save the fountain! My daughter loved splashing in it when she was little.
- **Megan scribner**  
Sep 11, 2020  
One of the wonderful things about downtown silver spring is the gathering together of people from all races, ethnicities, ages, and income. Ellsworth as currently designed - with the fountain- works to bring us all together. I take great joy in seeing the families play in the fountain. How we dance to music by the bands and enjoy the space with each other. Do not try and "fix" something that isn't broken - for who knows how much money - rather keep what works. It's a great design, leave it be.
- **Susan Miller**  
Sep 11, 2020  
Save the fountain! Stop the further gentrification of downtown Silver Spring.
- **Kathleen**  
Sep 11, 2020  
Keep the fountain! Don't tear up Ellsworth !
- **Cynthia Tenicela**  
Sep 11, 2020  
We must maintain the diversity that makes DTSS great. The fountain is available for all of our neighborhood children and must remain that way. Stop trying to white wash our beautiful, diverse community.

- **SUSAN Loftus**  
Sep 11, 2020  
No SynTurf Fake plastic has short lifespan and NO true recycling
- **Diana Conway**  
Sep 10, 2020  
DO NOT do this. We the object to losing our beloved public space to gentrification. We also object to the synthetic turf which will be blazingly hot (up to 170s on sunny 90-degree days), will predictably violate the MS4 permits with micro-plastics plus the glue required to hold it to the roadbed. And will require harsh disinfectants to remove and those also violate the MS4 stormwater regulations. Hot, toxic, gross
- **Anonymous**  
Sep 10, 2020  
That fountain is an utter delight. Why would anyone want to eliminate it? It is a fun and attractive amenity for children and adults alike. Its removal would be a great loss for Silver Spring.
- **Anonymous**  
Sep 10, 2020  
Please do not remove that beloved fountain!! It is such a treat for our children on a hot day.
- Is artificial turf safe? As I recall, there were stains and tears in the artificial turf that was once surrounded Veteran's plaza. There were concerns about the safety back then too.
- **Stephanie Archer**  
Sep 09, 2020  
Please keep the fountain in Downtown Silver Spring. It brings much joy to the young and old. If the mosaic is too hard to maintain, then find another surface to use, but keep the fountain itself.
- **Anonymous**  
Sep 09, 2020  
The fountain is a gathering place for so many people from all walks of life. Dont bring yet another Rockville center or Pike & Rose-boring and ALL about consumerism and money. People, young & old smile and laugh at the fountain. Be brave and be generous in this mean world. It's the kind thing to do.
- **Elaine Wunderlich**  
Sep 09, 2020

That fountain needs to stay!!!!

- 
- **Elizabeth T McMeekin**  
Sep 08, 2020  
The fountain in downtown Silver Spring is one of the best parts of the attraction of that area. So lovely, so open to community, and a nice balance to the many "big-box" stores and restaurants that fill the space. Please DO NOT destroy the fountain!
- 
- **Sharon S Rising**  
Sep 08, 2020  
This is an important gathering place for everyone, especially the families of Silver Spring. It should stay a center piece of activity.
- 
- **Catherine Honigsberg**  
Sep 08, 2020  
One of the few really nice artistic and community aspects of downtown Silver Spring. Please do not destroy this with astro turf. We are people not dogs.
- James Henkelman-Bahn  
Sep 08, 2020  
The mosaic fountain as an attraction for the rich diversity of Silver Spring should not be eliminated.
- **Tsedal**  
Sep 08, 2020  
I don't use it that often but I see even the little children having fun and it is pleasing. Why stop a good thing.
- **Segun Adebayo**  
Sep 07, 2020  
The fountain adds to the utility and ambiance of the environment. It is a community space for all demographics.
- **Anonymous**  
Sep 05, 2020  
No to astro turf! They ripped up Rockville town center big rocks and mulch and put in astro turf. We stopped going. It's hot and gross.
- 
- **Anonymous**  
Sep 05, 2020

Synthetic turf is a terrible idea. Save the fountain!

- **Karen Lange**

Sep 05, 2020

The fountain is a beautiful and joyous place. Please do not tear it and the mosaics out. they give life to Ellsworth Plaza. Astroturfing the plaza is a bad idea. Astroturf will quickly wear out, will be hard to clean, will transform a mixed use space into a single use space and will be incredibly ugly. I know that Veterans Plaza was a fun gathering place when it was temporarily covered in astroturf, but that was while construction took place. My family has enjoyed visiting Ellsworth Plaza for the past 15 years because it is such an inviting space. Please do not ruin it.

- **Tamara Laird**

Sep 04, 2020

I am a white female over 60. My husband and I relish and celebrate the vibrant community space that encompasses this area of silver spring!

- Any single one of the changes listed would do irreparable harm to the features that make this area so important to the community. All three changes are uncalled for and short sided.
- We spend every weekend enjoying children playing in the fountain, watching the skate boarders and listening to the spontaneous performances. I frequently send quick videos to friends showing what's going on and encourage them to join us. We love it. There is no place more welcoming, interesting, entertaining and pleasurable to spend an evening. We moved here to live WITH a multi cultural And mixed income Community. Don't change what makes that possible. I will be forwarding this petition.

- 

- **Kathryn Desmond**

Sep 04, 2020

Keep the fountain

- **Elizabeth Maury**

Sep 04, 2020

The fountain is such a community resource. It costs nothing, is open to all. It is anti-racist. If you go there and see it in action, you know why it must stay.

- **Betsy Berlin**

Sep 04, 2020

This is lovely and popular space. There is no good reason to make such modifications. They would DEGRADE the space and be of negative "benefit" to the community. The only conceivable motive is greed.

- howard iams

Sep 04, 2020

Silver Spring needs these recreational facilities in its downtown

- **Robert Peters**  
Sep 04, 2020  
While I support the idea of making one section of Ellsworth Drive a pedestrian space, taking the fountain down goes against the concept of a park/pedestrian space.
- **Isoline Sanderson**  
Sep 03, 2020  
The mosaic is beautiful and ripping it out would be a terrible move. Cycling and other wheeled outdoor activities (skating, etc.) are great means of exercise, and removing options to do them is also a step in the wrong direction. There are better ways to update an area.
- **Kay Gorman**  
Sep 03, 2020  
The fountain area is such a wonderful place for meeting and mixing, for all ages and all races. We need more places like this in the county, not fewer.
- **Paula Okeefe**  
Sep 03, 2020  
PLEASE do not destroy the fountain! It is beautiful and a great source of fun for kids in the area, plus gives a warm community feeling to the plaza. I always enjoy walking through and seeing kids and families having fun there. It is free summertime entertainment for families, which is always in short supply, and makes people of all economic levels feel more welcome. A water feature not only cleans the air, it soothes and relaxes people who hear it, which is so badly needed now. Also it is the locale of a great holiday tree in December which raises awareness of local agencies in need of help. It would be a terrible loss to Silver Spring to take out this lovely fountain and the walking mall which surrounds it.
- **Kathleen Michels**  
Sep 03, 2020  
Please create a space that invites people to relax and to play! Not something just pretty to look at. I remember the old synthetic-turf. It was disgusting! Full of all kinds of crap including food scraps, cigarette butts and the smell of urine (probably dog..). And it would get extremely hot. I wouldn't take my kids there but when they got older they would meet there when cool because it was open space NOT because of the disgusting plastic carpet. Make Ellsworth inviting AND HEALTHY for the whole community.
- **Elizabeth Gould-Leger**  
Sep 03, 2020  
We need this space, especially the fountain—for kids and for its beauty. These blocks are a great place to spend time, just as is!!

- (As to beauty—synthetic turf? How ugly and non-upscale can you get?)
- **Sanjida H Rangwala**  
Sep 03, 2020  
Yes! to car-free public space
- No! To sterile turf and loss of bike/skate path
- **Anonymous**  
Sep 03, 2020  
I think it is short sighted to allow turf in this plaza. It is an environmental nightmare from the perspective of material, installation, and disposal!!! The fountain is an icon. It should be saved as historical art. If it is deemed unsalable by an independent committee, it should be replaced with a fountain that incorporates some of the tile mosaic from this one. We must allow skateboard users in this area, as it is only fair to them who have been there for years and are enjoyed by the general public who often sit and watch them.
- **Tyler Todmann**  
Sep 03, 2020  
Gentrification is genocide with a fancy name
- **Anonymous**  
Sep 03, 2020  
No to artificial turf. We used to have that where there is now the ice-skating rink. It became dirtier and dirtier. I couldn't even let my granddaughter play on it because she liked to pick up the cigarette butts.
- **Kathleen Williams**  
Sep 03, 2020  
DTSS is beautiful. Taking the fountain and putting in turf would be a mistake. Astro turf was there before and was disgusting. It holds germs. Definitely not what we need! Let it be beautiful, walkable, bikeable, inclusive.
- **Tonia Bleam**  
Sep 03, 2020  
Save the fountain! Block the street off from cars full time but otherwise leave it. I love how it is
- **Lauren Supplee**  
Sep 03, 2020  
That fountain is a heart of DTSS and a beautiful symbol of community
- **Nina Garfield**  
Sep 03, 2020  
This has been such a wonderful place for kids and adults to mix. Would be a step backwards to get rid of the fountain.

- 
- **LuAnn McKinney**  
Sep 03, 2020  
a charming, fun, dynamic place in the hot weather of the DMV. And reminiscent of other great civic plazas, from London (UK) to the Vancouver World's fair. PLEASE don't take this away!!!
- **Corinne Goldsmith**  
Sep 03, 2020  
We need to keep the fountain as it brings joy to kids. In fact, make it a bit bigger so more kids can come. Maybe a slip and slide feature as well. We need places for the skateboarders. Maybe get rid of the concrete in front of the Civic center and have a more pleasant space for people to sit and relax. I DO NOT WANT SILVER SPRING BEING GENTRIFIED. WE DO NOT WANT SILVER SPRING TO BE BETHESDA. SILVER SPRING IS THE 5TH MOST DIVERSE CITY IN THE NATION AND WE LIKE IT THAT WAY
- **Minal Bopaiah**  
We live and I work in Silver Spring, and there is no downtown SS without that fountain!
- **Sharon Lutz**  
Sep 03, 2020  
It is imperative that Silver Spring maintain the family atmosphere and not destroy the spaces that encourage family fun and community!
- 
- **Mina schwartz**  
Sep 03, 2020  
Save our fountain
- **Anonymous**  
Sep 02, 2020  
Please keep the fountain. I don't believe it was even considered! Also, we have local artists, -- don't include us in a world tour someone "up and coming" -- we have them right here...contact Montgomery College or Strathmore about local artists. Also, artificial turf is not "green space". Its plastic space. NO THANKS.
- **Lee Jamilkowski**  
Sep 02, 2020  
Renovate Ellsworth all you want - but leave the fountain alone. It is a piece of public art, too - called "Spring Creek".
- **Lydia Fleischmann**  
Sep 02, 2020  
Don't tear out the mosaic fountain!
-

- **Richard Albores**  
Sep 02, 2020  
Don't remove the fountain and keep the pavement clear of car traffic. Micro-modal transportation forms should take priority.
- **Lisa Vogel**  
Sep 02, 2020  
The fountain is one of the best Things about Downtown SS. I took my kids there for years when they were young and always patronized nearby stores and restaurants. Take it away and you will 100% get less business and less vibrant feel
- **Anonymous**  
Sep 02, 2020  
Love the fountain! Brings the whole community together.
- **Eric Cathcart**  
Sep 02, 2020  
AstroTurf is a stupid idea. I used to sell it professionally. I know what it's good for and what it's bad for. A permanent install is a waste of money. Also, getting rid of a destination feature like the fountain that gives so much joy to the children, is yet another example of horrible planning. "It is difficult to design a space that will not attract people. What is remarkable is how often this has been accomplished." - William Holly Whyte.
- **Theresa clark**  
Sep 02, 2020  
Leave Fenton Street alone. Who needs fake turf.
- **Anna White**  
Sep 02, 2020  
The fountain has always been such a wonderful "third place", one that has truly brought together people in the community of all ages, colors, countries of origin, economic levels, and more. Even before having kids and moving to Silver Spring over a decade ago, used to come up from DC to catch movies at AFI and loved hanging out by the fountain and enjoying the pure organic joyfulness exuded by all the young fountain-splashers in the space. Have many pleasant memories of taking my kids there to cool off and have fun when they were young.



- **Anonymous**  
Sep 02, 2020  
Public space should be used to serve the public good, not about increasing profit. And the use of synthetic turf has considerable negative consequences--this plastic degrades over time and the bits and pieces end up in our streams where they harm aquatic life. Plus it simply is not comfortable or attractive for humans. The fountain has been an incredibly beautiful and popular feature for all and should be kept. I'm sure there are much better solutions than what Downtown Silver Spring, the commercial entity, has proposed. Include the public in decision making for public spaces!
- **Victoria Balenger**  
Sep 02, 2020  
Please scrap this plan, which has nothing to do with SS residents' needs or quality of life. We don't need to make our region another San Francisco!
- **Kirsten Mage**  
Sep 02, 2020  
Keep the fountain!!!
- **Laura Delaney**  
Sep 02, 2020  
OutRAGEous! This is so short sighted and divisive.
- **Idris Mokhtarzada**  
Sep 02, 2020  
Turf?? Seriously?
- **Jayne Holt**  
Sep 02, 2020  
  
I am pleased at the idea of permanently banning cars from this section of Ellsworth but please do not get rid of the fountain! That is such a lovely feature and makes DDSS a unique and inviting place for families.
- **Carlean Ponder**  
Sep 02, 2020  
The children deserve to have their fountain play!!
- **Sawa Kamara**  
Sep 02, 2020  
We hope that this space will continue to be utilized by the community. I take my daughter every summer to play here. It's almost like a getaway. We love it, we have met so many other parents. Please don't take the fun & opportunity away!
-

- **Elaine R Weiss**  
Sep 02, 2020  
As a community that has historically been racially, ethnically, and socioeconomically diverse, this is a big step in the wrong direction.
- **Dawn Barton**  
Sep 02, 2020  
I was dismayed to hear that Ellsworth was opened to vehicles after being a walkable, bikeable and skateable place of community for so long. Put the plaza back to a car-free zone (and don't add astroturf, gross!) and put your efforts toward making a more inclusive space. If cars need places to be let them use the streets that currently exist.
- **Christoper Baty**  
Sep 02, 2020  
Project architect/manager at a local architecture firm and find the removal of child-friendly features to be extremely disheartening and the antithesis of inclusive design.
- **T Grebowsky**  
Sep 02, 2020  
Please block or modify Project Plan Amendment 91998005C and Executive Order 084-20 to ensure that the downtown Silver Spring mosaic fountain stays in place. Thank you.
- **Kristen Hudgins**  
Sep 02, 2020  
Please save the fountain! Also, synthetic turf seems like it would get real funky real fast. Ellsworth Ave is perfect as it is, it is a community space that is well used and well loved.
- **Consuelo A Grier**  
Sep 02, 2020  
keep the fountain!
- **Marcelle Fozard**  
Sep 02, 2020  
The joy that the fountain brings should not be taken away. Leave it be or enhance the experience with some ice cream/mochi stands. I love seeing the kids splashing in it.
- Briana Adams  
Sep 02, 2020  
Please save the fountain.
- **Lauren Posten**  
Sep 02, 2020  
Synthetic turf is the worst idea ever!

- **Ryan McDermott**  
Sep 02, 2020  
Development at the expense of diversity will destroy our community.
  
- **Diane Jackson**  
Sep 02, 2020  
Don't remove the downtown Silver Spring fountain.
  
- **Alex Lorch**  
Sep 02, 2020  
I support retention of the mosaic fountain
  
- **David Martone**  
Sep 02, 2020  
Don't destroy this landmark! My children enjoy this fountain.
  
- **Jadwiga Furdyna**  
Sep 02, 2020  
Improve DTSS by attracting good locally owned restaurants, not low budget chains. Keep the fountain for kids. p.s. AstroTurf is tacky.
  
- **Anne Catherine Sen**  
Sep 02, 2020  
The wading pool was wonderful when our daughter was younger, and it's a joy to see all the little kids playing in it whenever we go to downtown SS (pre-COVID, of course). The pools here are really expensive, and the fountain gives low income families a place to have water play. That is a really important resource for our city. It would be a real tragedy for downtown SS to lose its uniqueness and diversity. When we lived in DC we used to visit downtown SS all the time and the family-friendly, safe activities for kids of all ages was a big factor in our moving here. Please don't turn our downtown into another boring gentrified grownup oriented place!
  
- **Anonymous**  
Sep 02, 2020 1  
At the expense of current tax payers, you would use funds to slowly push them out. This work should benefit those currently there, not push them out
  
- **Anonymous**  
Sep 02, 2020 1  
Save the fountain. Find a better way.
  
- 
- 
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- **Michelle Gregos**  
Sep 02, 2020  
Although for a long time I missed the astroturf that was where the civic center and ice sharing rink now stand, we don't need astroturf on Ellsworth again. The fountain has been great and should not be removed because it's been a major attraction and become a distinctive feature. Keep downtown Silver Spring as is!
- **Gony Goldberg**  
Sep 02, 2020  
The mosaic fountains has become a symbol of Silver Spring. Hundreds of people enjoy its beauty every day and all year round. It would be a shame to eliminate it and the bike paths.
- **eunice**  
Sep 02, 2020  
Keep the fountain!!
- **roy**  
Sep 02, 2020  
keep the Silver Spring plaza fountain
- **Bailey Whiteman**  
Sep 02, 2020  
Please keep Ellsworth between Fenton and Georgia as it is: diverse, pedestrian and bike friendly, a place to cool off a relax by the fountain, a place for the farmers market.
- **Marta Antonetti**  
Sep 02, 2020  
FIRE FIRE GENTRIFYER
- **Becky Wasserman**  
Sep 02, 2020  
As a Silver Spring resident, Woodside homeowner I completely agree with petition. This renovation should be for the current users not a loss in community benefits.
- **Katie Boccock**  
Sep 02, 2020  
the fountain is not only the kid's water park, it is where we display a groovy Christmas Tree!
- **Paula Amann**  
Sep 02, 2020  
Let's keep that lovely, mosaic fountain for generations of kids to come. (My teen loved it when she was little.) I would miss the bustle, the dancing in the street at summer concerts, when we can hold them again. No ugly, anti-environmental, plastic turf, please!

- **Roland Follot**  
Sep 02, 2020  
I love seeing the kids playing in that fountain. Come on now, astro  
... really?!
- **greg thomas**  
Sep 01, 2020  
The fountain is the best thing in Silver Spring.
- **Mike Mage**  
Sep 01, 2020  
I fully support this petition.

