



SILVER SPRING URBAN DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 1, 2013

Isiah Leggett, County Executive
Montgomery County
101 Monroe Street
Rockville, MD 20850

Nancy Navarro, Council President
Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Ave.
Rockville, MD 20850

Re: Proposed FY14 Budget

Dear Mr. Leggett and Ms. Navarro:

This letter is to express support for the County Executive's proposed FY14 budget for the Silver Spring Urban District.

While the local economy remains in turmoil and County revenue is weak, it is gratifying that the Silver Spring Urban District budget will be funded at a level commensurate with prior years.

It is notable that the budget anticipates another increase in property tax revenue within the Silver Spring Urban District, continuing a trend of strong increases. The growth in Silver Spring property values is largely due to increasing private investment in residential property by people who want to live here. The County's investment in the redevelopment of downtown Silver Spring is paying off and remains critical for continued viability.

Therefore, the Silver Spring Urban District Advisory Committee is in a position to call your attention to the need to nurture that investment rather than take it for granted. As the popularity of Silver Spring has increased, it will require more effort to maintain an attractive, comfortable, "clean and safe" downtown. Public improvements made 30 years ago need constant maintenance, even replacement. It is important to maintain a balance between resources committed to the Urban District and the revenue the County expects to collect from activities, businesses, and residents in the Urban District.

The Urban District Advisory Committee will continue to monitor the situation in Silver Spring and advise you of programmatic or budgetary needs.

Sincerely,

Ernest Bland, RA
Chairman,
SSUDAC