

SSUDAC Meeting Summary
May 19th, 2022

Members Present: Jay Elvove, Diana Brown, Mel Tull, Maggie Gessner, Jane Redicker

Members Absent: Mussie Betre, Thomas Kaufmann, Carmen Camacho, Michael Larson, David Fogel, Juanita Stewart

Presenters: Lt. David Reed, MCPD

Call to Order and Introductions:
Jane Redicker

- The meeting was called to order at 3:34 p.m.

MCPD Public Safety Update:
Lieutenant David Reed, MCPD

- CBD Overtime Officers have a great impact in DTSS
 - 1 Gun Arrest
 - Responded to one shooting with no injuries
 - Strategy of deployment continues to work and is ever changing based on crime analysis
 - New MCPD security cameras proving effective
- Able to make 3 arrests of 3 graffiti taggers based on community involvement and a multi team approach. One of the arrests had a ghost gun. Group also involved in liquor store robbery.
- Large juvenile fight on Colesville
 - Recovered an Airsoft Replica Pistol
- Police are engaged and active despite being down 40 positions
- Since MSP has joined the team:
 - 144 Officer Hours dedicated to Enforcement
 - 198 Traffic Stops
 - 67 Citations
 - 115 Warnings
 - 22 Emergency Reports
 - DUI Arrest
 - 4 Vehicles Stops for Drugs, 1 for Firearm
 - Other criminal arrests
- CBD Team since Jan 1:
 - 708 Traffic Stops
 - 295 Citations for Speeding, reckless driving, running red legs
 - 955 Warnings
 - 42 Repair Orders
 - 8 DUIs
 - 7 Firearms seized
- New Bicycle Police initiative very popular with officers
- DUI Checkpoint coming in the next few weeks to Silver Spring CBD
- Jay asks whether those arrests are staying in jail or being released

- Report forthcoming, not where the police would want it right now. Hoping for increased court
- Jane raises the possibility of inviting State's Attorney McCarthy to visit the SSUDAC

Silver Spring Town Center Inc

Lisa Martin, Montgomery County Planning

- Bringing back Silver Spring Blues Festival for the first time since 2019
 - Boogie Woogie Blues Man headlining
 - Ellsworth Plaza Main Stage
 - Looking for additional sponsorship from local businesses
 - June 8th-June 18th Blues Week
 - Johnny Graves at Koiner Farms kick off
 - Events at El Golfo and McGinty's
 - Festival day is June 18th with 2 stages, 3-10pm and 10am-10pm
- Artist Spotlight on Wednesday Evening, highlighting Pamela Betts
- Virtual Comedy Show on Wednesday the 25th
- Sandy Spring Zoom Event as part of Pride on June 23rd
- Evening of Hawaiian Music and Dance tonight at El Golfo!

SSUD Program Manager Report

Carson Henry, Silver Spring Urban District Program Manager

- Presents the April Report (Attached)
- Mel raises a question about power washing an area near the Silver Spring Library
 - Was power washed yesterday
- Jane asks if the Clean/Safe team coordinates with the Police on graffiti, photographs every piece of graffiti. Reports gang related and especially egregious incidents to the Police.
- Question raised about who to contact to remove graffiti in different and more residential areas ie: Mailboxes, electrical boxes, 495 Bridges.
 - Not a specific over-arching person to report it to but 311 for the best method to send it to the right person
- Jazz Festival September 10th
- Conversation on enforcement of amplified sounds with Department of Environmental Protection and General Services.
 - Enforcement is not the only method to cut down on the noise
 - Social engineering should be part of the solution
 - Generally will turn down the volume when asked, does result in the most conflict with the public for the Clean/Safe Teams
 - Jane raises that the current noise ordinances are written primarily for construction noise and not things like amplified voices and bars.
 - Mel raises that if DEP isn't stepping up it may be up to the Silver Spring specific agencies to tackle it. Raises concerns of issues businesses may have with people not wanting to brave the sound.

- Jacob Newman, RSC Director, points out the legal issues with how to enforce this amplification issue that other municipalities have also been dealing with. Also issues with Veteran's Plaza itself being zoned for higher noise level right next to the main area of concern for the amplification.

Old and New Business

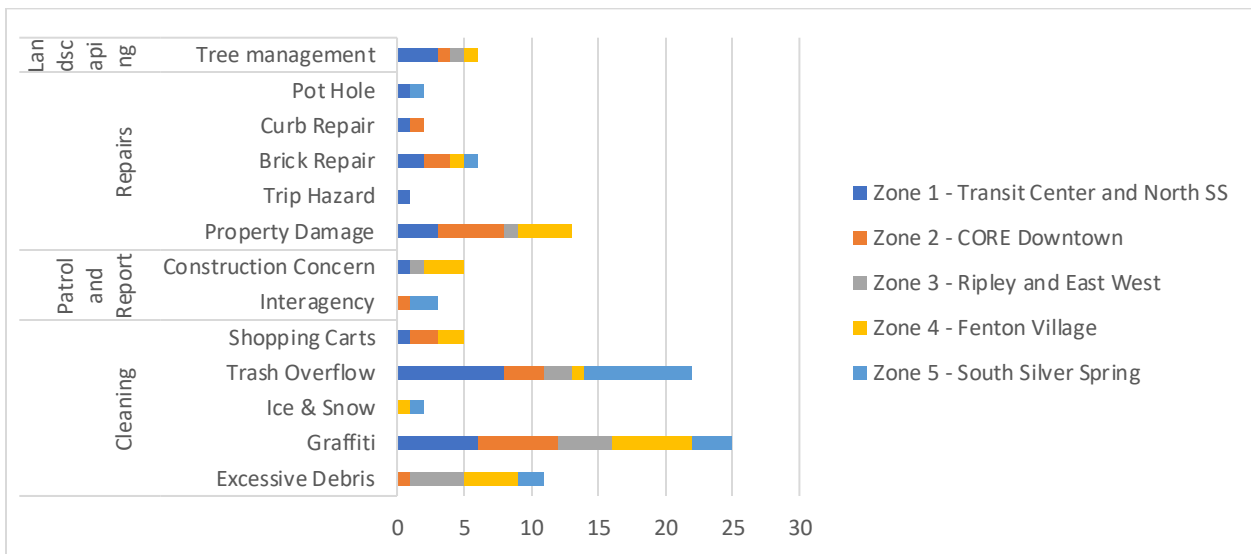
- Purple Line Update was originally supposed to be for this meeting, CAT meetings are being pushed as the method of outreach right now. There'll be a few upcoming meetings for CAT. Jane will reach out to the builders themselves if they will come.
- Hybrid Meetings are on hold due to audio difficulties and lack of hardware at the moment. New equipment may facilitate hybrid meetings going forward, potentially for next month.
- Mel asks about money being put aside for the BID.
 - All \$800,000 requested is in the Council Budget for business district improvements that may include BID/Townhall/etc efforts as grants.
 - An additional \$200,000 was put in the budget for the Silver Spring BID if they become compliant.
 - To become compliant, they need a new board makeup as well as additional support from the community. To the best of our understanding.
 - Business Advancement Team will be setting up a portal for those grants.
- Diana raises a topic for next meeting: Topics for the August Retreat.
- The Fillmore is getting busy and staying busy! Lots of concerts and events in DTSS.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

APRIL 2022 OPERATIONS SUMMARY



District Operations At-a-glance

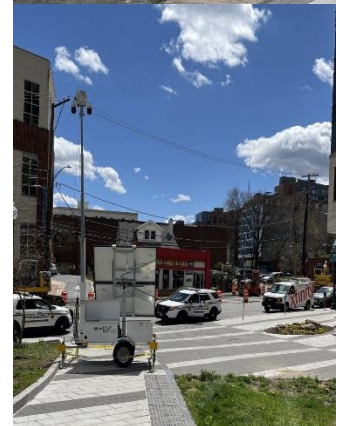
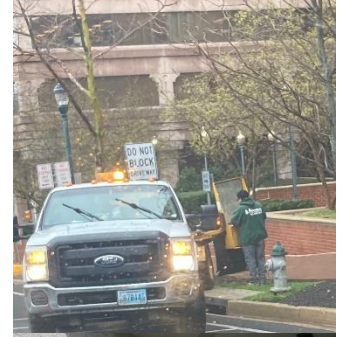


Service Summary

To be added

Snapshots

- 4/4 Community members reported concerns of multiple instances of graffiti vandalism on Weller's dry cleaners; SSUD responded and removed within 24 hours.
- 4/7 In preparation for planting, stump griding began for previous season's fallen and removed trees.
- 4/11 Families enjoying Story telling time at the library.
- 4/12 MCPD deployed security cameras on Georgia at Thayer and Bonifant at Fenton.
- 4/20 Urban District staff alerted MCPD to possible explosive device in a trash can at the Silver Spring Civic Center. MCPD coordinated response and Bomb Squad determined no explosives present.
- 4/28 Activation and initial light phasing of the two newly installed Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons along Fenton Street.



Highlights



Newly installed lights at Kennett St. Garage.

SSUD worked with DOT Tree Maintenance to finalize the installation of 48 new trees throughout the Urban District. The primary installation of the planting occurred along the East West Highway, 16th street, and Fenton Street corridors. This was the largest planting in years.

SSUD's streetscape repair projects with DOT Highway Services concluded two repair projects. First, the DOT contractor repaired damaged brick pillars along Fenton Street. Second, the contractor completed repairs to the sinking sidewalk and damaged ADA ramps along East West Highway at the NOAA property.

SSUD directly commissioned the repair of all (11) lights on the front and rear of the Kennett Street Garage (9). The effort required support guidance and collaboration with DOT Traffic Engineering, Lighting Maintenance Incorporated, Procurement and the SSUD Administrative team. Residents have been providing very positive feedback.

All three urban districts coordinated emergency procurement action, through the CEC Business Management Team, to contract emergency intervention pest control services. Additionally, Silver Spring Urban District worked with Department of General Services, Health and Human Services, and Peterson Company management to implement a coordinated pest mitigation effort. This effort was launched in response to increased rodent activity in and around the Fenton Village area with significant concerns at Petal Park (Wayne and Georgia) and around the Civic Center. The SSUD intervention effort (burrow busting treatment, addition of bait stations, and implementation of tracking powder) is scheduled for the Fenton Village area and adjacent areas on May 2 at 9am.

The five new staff added to the Silver Spring Clean and Safe teams have made a tremendous impact. Public Service Aides have boosted patrols in and around the area while also doing significant outreach to local business area (e.g., promotion and information sharing about restaurant week), The new Public Service Workers have increased the Urban District's repair response effort while also doing an excellent job of enhancing the street cleaning efforts of the SSUD.

MCPD made significant enhancements to policing and surveillance in April. Mobile security cameras were deployed in the Fenton Village area to add enhanced surveillance and crime deterrence. County Police began receiving additional support from Maryland State Police Tuesday – Friday. Each night 2 troopers are coordinating with the MCPD DCAT team to enforce aggressive and drunk driving. SSUD has been working to do outreach and communication to the residents in the areas that have been affected the most directly.

SSUD called a meeting with the managers of the Orion, Aurora, and Galaxy properties to coordinate a response to excessive pet waste concerns in the community's shared corridor. The Urban District has also worked with Department of Environmental Protection to deploy pet waste signage in public tree boxes.



Quotes - Kudos to the SSUD Staff

SSUD has increased graffiti removal efforts on private property and teaching best-practice removal techniques to private entities. SSUD has assisted multiple properties along Fenton Street to intervene in gang-related and other types of tagging. Here are some responses from residents and concerned citizens who have worked directly with the SSUD team:

“Having served in the past on the Western Montgomery Citizens Advisory Board and interacted with your counterparts with Bethesda Urban Partnership, I truly appreciate the work that you and your team do to make Downtown Silver Spring a great place to live.”
- Resident

"I just wanted to send a big THANKS to you and your team for removing the graffiti on our retaining wall this week! We already appreciate the Red Shirts, and you've given us one more reason to do so!" - Condo Board Member

“I second [community member]’s enthusiasm about and for your assistance. You and your team are offering a wonderful service to those of us who call DTSS our home . . . We look forward to seeing you and other red shirts in our neighborhood and continuing our cooperative relationship.” - Condo Board Member



In response to the tree planting that took place on along the 16th street corridor:

“Thank you for making the environment much better on 16th Street. The trees 🌳 are beautiful! - Resident

Concerns

Several days in the district have been marked by reports of disruptive a individual, possibly individuals, engaged in destruction or public and private property. The acts of destruction often target often intimate objects (e.g, a man walking around knocking over construction barrels and signs, picking up and throwing motorized scooters, removing recycling from the bins and throwing it on the streets, or knocking over trash cans and porta pottys). In each instance, SSUD staff have picked up the knocked over elements and swept residual debris from the roadway and streets. The common locations of these instances been along Georgia Avenue from Bonifant down toward the CSX bridge. In the instances where onlookers were present, the common description is of a heavy set African American male, wearing all black clothing with a hoody over his head,

SSUD Staff have received multiple noise disturbance call from residents near the Newell Street closure at Acorn Park. SSUD staff often arrive withing 5-15 minutes of the calls, but have not witnessed large crowds or loud people in the park or street closure areas. However, staff monitoring has indicated that the ground floor apartment occupants sometimes have their windows wide open while talking loudly and playing music. SSUD has modified evening patrols to proactively monitor and engage in noise disturbances at this location at dusk.

Illegal dumping concerns in Pershing alley (just off of Bonifant) and in the South Silver Spring area persist. SSUD working with DPS to investigate and intervene,

