



**SILVER SPRING REGIONAL SERVICES  
CENTER MONTHLY UPDATES**



September 2021

**Note: This is my first Monthly Report as Silver Spring Region Director. I am honored to be serving in this role and look forward to working with a broad range of stakeholders committed to the health and vibrancy of Silver Spring. Thank you - Jacob**

## COVID RELATED

- ❖ **Testing, vaccinations, food distribution, and rent relief:** We continue working extensively with internal and external partners to help coordinate messaging and deliver vaccines, testing, food, and rent relief. Services operate weekly out of the Silver Spring Food Hub at Clifton Park Baptist Church. Events and local gatherings provide additional opportunities to meet residents 'where they are'. Recognizing the increase in daily cases and imminent need for booster and third shots, vaccination events will be scheduled at the Civic building beginning in October through January. Covid Community Committee meetings are anticipated to resume in late September.

## NON COVID

- ❖ **National Night Out:** Gatherings were held in two distinct communities in the region: Long Branch and Lyttonsville. Residents enjoyed fun and engaging activities and connected with several types of resources provided by government departments and nonprofit partners.
- ❖ **Ethiopian Day Celebration:** This festival brought together hundreds of people for music, dance, food, and celebration. 144 individuals were tested and 26 vaccinated at the event.
- ❖ **Celebrate Long Branch:** The Long Branch community will come together over three days for music, family friendly activities and placemaking September 10-12, 2021.
- ❖ **Silver Spring Arts & Entertainment District Working Group:**
  - Virtual summer program providers included: Ghandi Brigade, Docs in Progress, Arts on the Block, Create Arts Center, Round House Theatre and Education Center, Akhmedova Ballet, Maryland Youth Ballet, Levine
  - In-person summer camps or classes for the public to help Montgomery County parents with childcare and to help students cultivate their creativity and emotional expression: Create Arts Center, Round House Theatre and Education Center, Akhmedova Ballet, Maryland Youth Ballet.
  - The Silver Spring Civic Building hosted Twilight Tuesday weekly concerts, Friday and Wednesday concerts, a weekly Afrobeat Dance class, and the Saturday Farmer's Market on Veteran's Plaza.
  - The Montgomery County Thanksgiving Parade is accepting applications to march in the parade and to volunteer at the parade. We have received 34 applications since the press release and email notifications were sent out.
  - Silver Spring Arts & Entertainment District has embarked on the process of seeking redesignation as an Arts & Entertainment District by the State of Maryland.
- ❖ **Silver Spring Urban District Operations (Red Shirts and related engagements):**
  - Collaborative cross agency and sector meetings and daily response throughout the month focused on interrelated issues including urination and defecation, crisis prevention and intervention, services to homeless individuals, safety and security, late-night nuisances.

- Focus on critical areas pertaining to a clean, safe, and welcoming district. Hardscape – Repairs and Maintenance; Landscaping – Living Elements; Patrol and Report – Violations and Hazards; Streetscape - Cleanliness

## ADVISORY GROUPS

### ❖ **Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board:**

The SSCAB held its annual retreat on Saturday August 21st and a second planning meeting on Monday, August 23rd. The Board discussed topics of interest for full Board and committee meetings. Prior to the planning retreat, the Board sent in a letter of advise urging a veto of bill 3-21, to create a Silver Spring Business Improvement District, citing concern from many local small businesses, issues with governance structure, and racial equity implications. The Board will reconvene for formal full meetings and committee meetings beginning September 13th. The SSCAB is also functioning as part of the Silver Spring Covid Community Committee.

- ### ❖ **Silver Spring Urban District Advisory Committee:**
- The SSUDAC met August 19th for their annual retreat and will start regular meetings in September. Committee members discussed issues pertaining to the BID, Urban District Finances, committee participation, and scheduling for the upcoming year.

