

Allied Civic President Urges Council Approval of Live Nation

Councilmembers,

Many of you know me from my work on the Silver Spring Redevelopment Steering Committee and/or as president of Allied Civic Group, the umbrella civic organization for the eastern part of the county, including Silver Spring.

First, let me say to each of you how sorry I am that you have lost a valued colleague in Marilyn Praisner. I first worked with her in the 90s as president of the Northwood/Four Corners Civic Association and know how much she treasured our neighborhoods and her work on the Council. She will be sorely missed.

I also am writing to you today to let you know what I've been hearing about Live Nation. While Allied rarely holds meetings, I do maintain an e-mail list of about 200 people associated with Allied and stay in touch that way. In the meantime, I also have an informal e-mail list of people who were interested in the Birchmere and bringing live music to the downtown-about another 50 or so folks.

The day after the Live Nation lease was announced, I sent an e-mail to both lists, basically asking people what they thought of the whole idea, from the venue to the lease to the complaints of a few people about the process of selecting Live Nation. Since then, I have not heard from a single person who was unhappy with any part of this proposal, the process or anything else. Nothing. What I did get back was comments along the lines of "Let's get this done already."

I also noticed a few days ago that a local blogger dubbed the Live Nation side of Colesville Road "Skid Row" It seems to be catching on. That's really unfortunate for those of us who have worked hard to make Silver Spring a vibrant place where we all can be proud to live, work, shop and yes, be entertained.

I would ask you on behalf of what so far appears to be one of those proverbial silent majorities to do what you can to make the Live Nation deal happen.

Thanks for your time and consideration.
Mike

Mike Diegel
Northwood/Four Corners
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