

2021 ANNUAL REPORT GOCA Agenda Highlights

Happy New Year! I hope this annual report finds you well, restored, and renewed as we embark on a new calendar of GOCA meetings in 2022. As you reflect on the new year and review the 2021 highlights, don't hesitate to contact us with agenda items you would like to see addressed during the upcoming year.

We decided to create a 2021 Annual report in lieu of the December meeting as permitted by article X.2 in the Association By-Laws. This past year, 2021 was full of challenges as all GOCA meetings continued to be virtual; however, we could still achieve great success. I hope you enjoy reading the highlights of a hectic year for the Greater Olney Area.

Resolutions

GOCA Pool Resolution

- Resolution from the general meeting of the Greater Olney Civic Association, Inc. on Tuesday, June 8, 2021.
- Resolved, therefore, the Greater Olney Civic Association formally requests the State and County and its responsible officials and agencies, including the DHHS, DHCA, and the CCOC, immediately work to protect associations, including their boards and membership from litigation based on COVID-19 or any future pandemics, in connection with the operation of common use facilities and associated recreational elements.

GOCA Policing Resolution 2021

- Whereas the latest draft available for Montgomery County's effort to "reimage the police" calls for 1. Replacing School Resource Officers (SROs) with just Counselors; 2. A likely reduction in the number of Police officers who could carry guns to protect themselves and the Public; 3. Fully automatic traffic enforcement; 4. Reducing enforcement of drug violations; 5. Possible elimination of enforcement of trespass law; 6. Recommendation 12 – "Reduce sworn officer FTE's in Police Districts 3 and 4 (which includes Olney) by 50% to reduce police officer contact with residents in these districts."
- Comments related to these proposals include:
 - If traffic enforcement is automated, who will curtail reckless and impaired drivers in real-time?
 - Reduced enforcement of drug violations by strongly embolden MS-13 criminal activity according to MCPD's 2019 Crime and Safety Report and other illegal drug activity;
 - Without police enforcement of trespass laws, who would citizens call if there was suspicious activity on private property in their community?
 - If there is further reduction of the police force, you further increase not only the danger to citizens but also the danger to the police officers who try to enforce the law and protect the safety of the population with inadequate staff.
- Now, therefore, based on concerns related to these six recommendations, be it resolved that the Greater Olney Civic Association hereby opposes the above Montgomery County Task Force report on "reimagining public safety" in its current form.

GOCA Thrive 2050 Resolution

- Whereas the Montgomery County Planning Board on July 8 revealed a plan to move forward to "unravel" (eliminate) single-family residential zones throughout Montgomery County on the basis of "exclusionary aspects" and to diversify the County's housing stock; and
- Whereas this Plan would require all areas with single-family zoning to allow duplexes by right and in some cases triplexes, and quadruplexes;
- Be it hereby resolved that the Greater Olney Civic Association opposes any and all efforts to redefine single-family development zoning to allow multifamily dwellings or apartment structures. Furthermore, the Greater Olney Civic Association supports maintaining single-family housing developments in Montgomery County as a housing option for the thousands of families that have already chosen to invest their savings to live in a single-family housing development and for families who desire to live in single-family housing in the future.

GOCA Awards

The 2020 GOCA Awards ceremony was held via Zoom on Tuesday, November 9, 2021, at 7:30 PM. Carol Frenkel led the ceremony, speaking about the accomplishments of the awardees and thanking them for their contributions. Although we wanted to hold the ceremony in person, the pandemic once again forced us to adapt. The following were the award recipients:

Howard J. Garber Citizen of the Year

- The Olney Lions Club

Contribution to the Community

- Jay Feinberg
- Marc Rosendorf

Youth Contribution to the Community

- Evie Lynch
- Aine Lynch

GOCA Worker of the Year

- Carol Frenkel

Ron Berger Memorial Olney Heritage Award

- Greater Olney Toastmasters

A petition, Guest Speaker Stacey Wolf

- GOCA guest speaker Stacey Wolf spoke at our September 14th meeting about the petition that the CCCFH (Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights) is circulating titled "Montgomery County Council: Broad Community Input Needed on Residential Zoning Changes."
- The petition was created because residents of Montgomery County have serious concerns about the "Draft Thrive Montgomery 2050 General Plan" before the County Council. To implement the Plan's housing goals and policies, current residential zoning will be changed to allow market-rate multifamily housing units (duplexes, triplexes, quadplexes) in single-family neighborhoods *as a matter of right without any public input*, resulting in potential gentrification of neighborhoods and displacement of residents countywide.
- Before any zoning changes implementing the Thrive Plan are approved, we ask the County Council to:
 - Establish Community Advisory Groups for all potentially affected communities to facilitate citizen input concerning the specific details of those zoning changes;
 - Mandate that all rezoning allowing the development of multifamily housing types in

single-family neighborhoods use the traditional master and sector plan processes to increase public support and avoid "one size fits all" results.

As of 1/2/22, 3,899 Montgomery County residents have signed the petition.

Bowie Mill Parkway (Daniel Rubenstein)

Danny Rubenstein updated GOCA about the Bowie Mill Bikeway Path:

- Bikeway will cover 3.3 miles from Bowie Mill Road to Muncaster Mill Road, plus a short connection to Needwood Road, as fully separated bike lanes
- Project completed through 35% design phase as of December 2021
- Project cost estimated at approx. \$20M to complete
- The project remains listed but unfunded for completion in the county budget
- GOCA advocacy needed to secure funding to complete the bikeway ahead of current timing (estimated 2030-32)

Women's Board 100th & Final Picnic and Bazaar

- The Women's Board held its 100th and final picnic and bazaar on July 27, 2021. GOCA was responsible for the drinks booth. Volunteers kept the booth stocked with beverages and collected tickets and money. They were assisted by youth volunteers who were earning SSL hours. The event was a great success.

GOCA Treasurer's Report

- Two new Associations joined, and two did not renew
- The Banner space was rented for a total of 73 days

GOCA collected \$851 in donations for Olney Days

- GOCA collected \$300 in donations to the Olney Police Sub-Station
- One expense did increase the cost for our two P.O. Boxes. In 2020 the cost of each box was \$106, while the renewal for 2021 was \$134 per box
- GOCA will add education as a budget line item for 2022

GOCA Membership Report

- GOCA currently consists of 31 Associations and one individual member
- 59 Delegates and 23 Alternates
- Total dues collected is \$2,700

GOCA's 2022 Agenda Items

New Highway Safety Bill

- A GOCA resolution: Relating To Publicly Demonstrating Greater Olney Civic Association Support For Maryland General Assembly Legislation to Reduce Dangerous Motor Vehicle Speeding On The MD 200 Intercounty Connector (ICC) In Montgomery County

Redistricting Maps

- The State Legislature will vote on redistricting during the regular session beginning in January 2022.
- Delegate Eric Luedtke is on the Legislative Redistricting Commission, and we will invite Mr. Luedtke to a future meeting to talk about the proposed redistricting maps and their impacts
- The Legislative Redistricting Commission has released the Congressional redistricting map, but

the State Legislature maps will be released soon.

- GOCA may want to send comments about the maps proposed by Gov. Hogan's Commission.

