



CITY OF TAKOMA PARK

City Manager Comments

Report for City Council Meeting of March 2, 2016

Responses to Questions from February 24, 2016 Council Meeting

Moving Pods – Councilmember Qureshi asked if moving pods / storage containers need a permit. A permit for a dumpster or storage container is required if the container will be placed in the City's right-of-way. If the container is on a driveway, no permit is required. A permit costs \$30.

Recording of Police Calls – Councilmember Qureshi asked if calls to the Police Dispatch line, 301-270-1700, are recorded and usable in court cases. The answer is yes; they are recorded and used just as 911 calls are. The 301-270-1100 line is always monitored.

Information to Share

City receives \$453,311 – Due to inaccurate distributions of income tax revenue from the Maryland Comptroller's Office, \$453,311 was sent to Montgomery County since 2010 instead of to the City of Takoma Park. An audit of income tax distributions revealed that some municipalities received more income tax revenue than they were owed and some received less. The Comptroller's Office has said that they are implementing steps to better identify address locations of income tax-paying residents. The audit only went back to 2010. Jurisdictions that are owed money will receive it within the month; jurisdictions that owe money will be able to pay it back over time. No interest will be paid either way.

New Finance Director – Susan Cheung has been named Takoma Park's new Finance Director. Ms. Cheung was hired by the City as a Budget Specialist in 2015 and has most recently been serving as Acting Finance Director. She has a strong history of accounting and management positions in credit unions and other organizations. Since coming to Takoma Park, she has adapted quickly to municipal finance and has impressed us all with her insight and skill.

Zika Virus – Several residents have inquired as to what the City might be doing to help prevent an outbreak of the Zika virus in Takoma Park. A representative of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention briefed COG representatives yesterday in a conference call in which I participated. The Zika virus is primarily spread by mosquitoes

but can also be transmitted from a mother to her unborn baby, or through sexual contact or a blood transfusion. Residents should take precautions to avoid mosquito bites; precautions are identified on the CDC website at www.cdc.gov/zika. The City of Takoma Park will urge people to take these precautions from mosquitoes and eliminate standing water on their property. Any spraying efforts will likely be undertaken by the State of Maryland or Montgomery County. We will be in contact with officials in the region to determine whether and how such spraying should be done and the extent to which the City of Takoma Park would be involved.

MML Chapter Meet and Confer – On the evening of March 3, the Montgomery County Chapter of the Maryland Municipal League will have its annual Meet and Confer session with County Executive Isiah Leggett. At this meeting, municipalities are to learn information regarding municipal tax duplication payments. The County Executive's proposed budget will be issued March 15.

City Budget Preparation – Staff and I are working on the City budget and will be working on it up through the presentation to the Council on April 6. During this time, I will be less available for meetings and for work on items that are not time-sensitive.

My Schedule

No time away is planned until late May.

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