

# Voting Session

<b>Agenda Item #</b>	5A
<b>Meeting Date</b>	March 23, 2016
<b>Prepared By</b>	Sara Anne Daines HCD Director
<b>Approved By</b>	Suzanne R. Ludlow City Manager

<b>Discussion Item</b>	Resolution appointing Takoma Park Poet Laureate
<b>Background</b>	<p>The Takoma Park Poet Laureate program, established in May 2005, honors the achievements of a local poet and is designed to provide literary leadership in the community. The designation of a poet laureate is intended to not only support and promote Takoma Park poets but to stimulate interest in poetry among residents of the city, encourage young and old to strive for greater expressive abilities, and encourage a wider appreciation of poetry and literature.</p> <p>To be considered for appointment an individual must be a resident of Takoma Park. He or she must be a published poet who is recognized by the literary community, have demonstrated achievement over an extended time period, and been engaged in teaching or public speaking or otherwise involved in the community.</p> <p>Initially appointed in 2011, the reappointment of Merrill Leffler as Takoma Park Poet Laureate was endorsed by the Arts and Humanities Commission on February 23, 2016. Mr. Leffler, a resident of Ward 3, is an accomplished poet and essayist, founding member of the Writers Center in Bethesda, founding editor of Dryad Magazine, and publisher of Dryad Press. He has organized the Friends of the Library's popular Spring for Poetry Walk and is actively involved in the City's monthly Third Thursday Poetry Reading series.</p> <p>If approved by the Council, Mr. Leffler would continue to serve as Takoma Park Poet Laureate through June 30, 2018.</p>
<b>Policy</b>	To expand public awareness of, involvement in, and access to the arts and arts opportunities and to create an environment which promotes interaction, dialogue, discussion and lasting relationships between artists and the public.
<b>Fiscal Impact</b>	The Poet Laureate receives a \$2,000 stipend (FY17-18 budgets)
<b>Attachments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resolution re-appointing Merrill Leffler as Takoma Park Poet Laureate</li> <li>• Arts and Humanities Resolution of Endorsement</li> </ul>
<b>Recommendation</b>	To approve the proposed resolution
<b>Special Consideration</b>	

City of Takoma Park, Maryland  
Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission

**RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF  
MERRILL LEFFLER AS TAKOMA PARK POET LAUREATE**

**WHEREAS,** the Takoma Park Poet Laureate program was established in May 2005 as a means of honoring the achievement of a local poet, while encouraging young and old to strive for greater expressive abilities and creating a wider appreciation of poetry and literature; and

**WHEREAS,** a poet laureate is a symbol of the important role the arts play in our civic life and creative expression and can be a source of pride and public pleasure for all Takoma Park residents; and

**WHEREAS,** the Arts and Humanities Commission has endorsed the re-appointment of Mr. Merrill Leffler, a respected poet and a resident of Ward 3, for a third term as Takoma Park's Poet Laureate; and

**WHEREAS,** the Takoma Park Poet laureate is appointed by the City Council of the City of Takoma Park for a period of two years and such term may be extended upon recommendation of the Arts and Humanities Commission.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Arts and Humanities Commission unanimously recommends the reappointment of Mr. Merrill Leffler as Takoma Park Poet Laureate.

Adopted this 23rd day of February 2016.

**ATTEST:**

Susan Strasser, Chair

Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission

Introduced by

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND**

**RESOLUTION 2016-**

**APPOINTING THE TAKOMA PARK POET LAUREATE**

**WHEREAS,** the Takoma Park Poet Laureate program was established in May 2005 as a means of honoring the achievement of a local poet, while encouraging young and old to strive for greater expressive abilities and creating a wider appreciation of poetry and literature; and

**WHEREAS,** a poet laureate is a symbol of the important role the arts play in our civic life and creative expression and can be a source of pride and public pleasure for all Takoma Park residents; and

**WHEREAS,** Mr. Merrill Leffler, the current Takoma Park Poet Laureate has served in this capacity since his initial appointment in 2011 and has proven to be a tremendous advocate for the important role poetry plays in our everyday lives; and

**WHEREAS,** the Arts and Humanities Commission has forwarded for Council approval its recommendation for the reappointment of Mr. Leffler as Takoma Park Poet Laureate.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council of the City of Takoma Park hereby continues Mr. Merrill Leffler's appointment as Takoma Park Poet Laureate beginning April 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2018.

**Adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of March 2016.**

Attest:

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Jessie Carpenter, CMC  
City Clerk