



## **CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND**

### **SB 477 Support**

**Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee**

**February 14, 2018**

**SB 477 – Public Information Act - Required Denials - Physical Addresses, E-Mail Addresses, and Telephone Numbers**

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We at the City of Takoma Park are strong advocates for transparency in government. We absolutely recognize the need for and value in being transparent, and we take pride in the amount of information that we make readily available and easily accessible for our residents and others. At the same time, we also utilize a number of messaging and alert systems that residents of the City sign up for in order to get important, timely, and sometimes vital information to our residents.

While the City of Takoma Park is subject to the same requests for information that all jurisdictions are, and we comply with regulations regarding such requests, we take issue with the requirement to turn over distribution lists upon request that contain residents' and others' physical addresses, email addresses, and telephone numbers. We do not believe there is any value or public benefit to doing so, and that the ability to request such information is an unintended consequence of otherwise important and meaningful sunshine/FOIA laws. We fear that these distribution lists could be used by any number private solicitors to attempt to sell products or services, or even that they could used in maliciously in attempts to spread malware or other computer viruses.

For these reasons, the City of Takoma Park stands with Senator Kagan, the Maryland Municipal League, and many others in strong support of SB 477 and we urge a favorable vote.