



CITY OF TAKOMA PARK

City Manager Comments

Report for City Council Meeting of September 7, 2016

*Information to Share**

Unity in the CommUNITY

Unity in the CommUNITY is an initiative derived from conversations between Meaghan Murphy, co-owner of Capital City Cheesecake, Mayor Kate Stewart and Captain Tyrone Collington of the Takoma Park Police Department that focuses on Community Policing. The initiative was created as a plan of action to build upon the continuation of community responses throughout the nation to unite local police departments with their community into one collective voice. The initiative is a proactive and collaborative step to create and strengthen relationships between the Takoma Park Police Department, elected city officials and community residents by expanding routine opportunities for people of diverse backgrounds to come together through community dialogue, relationship-building events, sustained partnerships and fundraising campaigns.

The event will have a kick-off party on **September 25** at Capital City Cheesecake, 7071 Carroll Avenue. The event will take place from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. For more information, please visit: <http://capitalcitycheesecakes.com/community/>.

City of Takoma Park Recognized for Patriotism

On Thursday of last week, I attended a ceremony where the City was recognized by the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution for “Exemplary Patriotism in the Display of the Flag of the United States of America.” Jack Carson, of Takoma Park, helped facilitate the award. Kudos to our Public Works and Police Departments for their ongoing efforts to showcase the City’s patriotism, especially leading up to and during the annual 4th of July festivities and by the Police Honor Guard at multiple events.

Follow-Up from July Council Meetings

SHA Work on Signals and Crosswalks at the Junction

Councilmember Male requested an update on the status of SHA’s work on the signals and crosswalks at the Takoma Junction. The work is ongoing, has occurred intermittently, and has taken much longer than anticipated. According to the project manager’s last update, they expect the work will be completed in November. We will keep Council apprised as receive updated information.

Update on Conway Avenue Mural Design Process

A letter of acceptance of the selected artist’s revised drawings was sent to the artist on August 8th. The letter included some caveats allowing incorporation of additional icons

* Up-to-date information on City projects is always available in the Project Directory on the City’s website: <https://takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/>

representing aspects of the neighborhood that were not depicted in the overall design and noting that consideration would be given to amending one of the sketches. The latest designs are available on the mural's project directory page (https://takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/mural_conwaypgaves/). On September 14th and 21st, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., student volunteers from area schools will be assisting the artist with the mural.

Letter to County regarding Solar Roofs

Councilmember Male requested, and the Council supported, that staff draft a letter to the County in support for solar roofs on County and MCPS buildings within the City where feasible. I am currently reviewing the information provided by Public Works staff and a draft letter, which I plan to share with Council for review and comment later this week.

Kudos

Kudos to **Ian Chamberlain**, Construction Manager, who has been integral over the summer in keeping a number of high profile projects on track. He has been the City's primary representative on the Carroll Avenue bridge project and has provided field oversight for the City's paving operations and contracted sidewalk construction. He is also managing construction oversight for the Colby Park Playground, serves as a City point of contact for the SHA project manager on a variety of projects, including pedestrian signal upgrades and curb ramp adjustments, and regularly represents the City's interests when utility companies schedule and implement utility work.

Kudos are also due to Finance and IT staff, and in particular **Alisa Phatiphong**, Budget Specialist, who worked diligently to ensure that the City's new accounts receivable and cashing systems went live in August. This was a large, behind-the-scenes endeavor that, if not for Alicia and others' excellent work over the past several months, would have led to tremendous headaches for staff during the fall, when bills are sent to residents.

My Schedule

I will be attending the annual ICMA Conference in Kansas City from Sept. 24-28. Jason Damweber will also attend.

A Personal Note

Thank you to City staff, Councilmembers, and many members of the community for your kind words, cards, hugs and food after the sudden death of my mother, Anne Ludlow, in August. Your caring thoughts made a difficult time much easier.

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