



CITY OF TAKOMA PARK

City Manager Comments

Report for City Council Meeting of November 16, 2016

Follow-Up from Last Council Meeting

Check with Public Policy Partners on Status of Strategic Plan

Staff has inquired with PPP about their proposal to develop strategic lobbying plans to address the legislative priorities discussed when they met with Council on September 28. They had developed one and, as it seemed to be what the Council wanted, will use the format for the other top priorities. We expect to receive them very soon.

Letter to Board of Elections

Staff is preparing a letter to the Montgomery County Board of Elections to convey concerns about the issues experienced at the Takoma Park Recreation Center on Election Day, namely issues related to traffic, traffic circulation, and parking.

Information to Share

Joint Priorities Hearing

Tonight in Rockville is the annual Joint Priorities Hearing before the full Montgomery County Delegation of State Senators and Delegates. Jason Damweber is testifying at the hearing on behalf of the City. The testimony is attached to this report. A Takoma Park-specific priorities discussion with our District 20 representatives is scheduled for December 6. Put it on your calendars!

Takoma Park as a Sanctuary City

We have heard many concerns from residents about what the recent presidential election could mean for Takoma Park as a recognized Sanctuary City. From a financial standpoint, the City does not receive much funding directly from the federal government other than through Community Development Block Grants (about \$90,000 per year) and some smaller grants to the Police Department. Some other federal funding goes through the State of Maryland for grant programs. At this point, we do not know if/how those funds will be impacted by the new administration. From an immigration law enforcement standpoint, we have no intention of deviating from our existing provisions. Attached to this report is a memorandum from the City Attorney's Office that provides more information about the City's role in the enforcement of U.S. immigration law and its status as a Sanctuary City.

Leaf Collection Season Begins Friday!

On Friday, Public Works crews begin the annual leaf collection process. Friday is for leaf collection on Flower Avenue and Piney Branch Road. Starting Monday, general leaf collection begins. Check the City's website for more information.

Takoma Junction Update

Per the Development Agreement between the City and Neighborhood Development Company (NDC), NDC is required to submit a copy of a Letter of Intent with the TPSS Co-op to the City on or before November 29. In light of the deadline, the Council is scheduled to receive an update on the process at their December 7 business meeting. Depending on where negotiations stand and whether an LOI is submitted, the Council may need to take action at the meeting on December 7 and determine whether to offer a 30-day extension of the deadline or require NDC to seek another anchor tenant.

Since the beginning of the 120 day window, the City has received weekly reports from NDC on the status of their negotiations. Although City representatives have attended some of the negotiation meetings as observers, the City has not been a party to the negotiations. As we approach the November 29 deadline, we wanted to let you know that the status reports are now available on the Takoma Junction Redevelopment project page. We believe this information will be helpful in showing residents and other stakeholders the various items being discussed and negotiated, as well as what some of the trade-offs, constraints, and unknowns are at this point.

The status updates are available here: <https://takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/takoma-junction-redevelopment/>.

If an LOI is not submitted by the November 29 deadline, Council will have to decide between one of three options on December 7: 1) grant a 30-day extension to the deadline for submission of an LOI; 2) require NDC to begin seeking a new anchor tenant; 3) terminate the development agreement and pay NDC up to \$75,000 for out-of-pocket expenses. If the Council decides to grant a 30-day extension, it would be 30 days from December 7. If an LOI has not been submitted by the end of the extended time period, NDC will have the right to begin seeking a new anchor tenant unless the City wishes to terminate the Development Agreement.

Kudos

Kudos to **Zamurd “Zee” Abbas**, Information Services System Administrator, for his skillful work recovering very important data from an employee’s “fried” hard drive. The loss of the data would have negatively impacted a number of staff members. Zee’s expertise undoubtedly saved us countless hours that would have been spent recreating the data. Great work Zee!

My Schedule

I will be out of the office on November 17, 21 and 23.

Suzanne R. Ludlow, AICP CPM
City Manager, City of Takoma Park
SuzanneL@takomaparkmd.gov
301-891-7229