



## Takoma Park City Council Meeting – July 6, 2016 Agenda Item 1 - REVISED

### **Voting Session**

Resolution Authorizing Submission of Legislative Action Requests for Consideration by the Maryland Municipal League (MML)

### **Recommended Council Action**

Adopt the resolution transmitting three legislative action requests to the MML.

### **Context with Key Issues**

Each year, MML determines its legislative priorities based on Legislative Action Requests (LARs) submitted by Maryland municipalities and MML chapters and departments, and on priority issues not resolved from the prior session. The LARs are reviewed by MML staff and provided to the MML Legislative Committee for consideration. Municipalities may submit up to three LARs. The Legislative Committee selects up to four issues to be recommended to the MML membership at the fall conference.

The Council considered five options at its work session on June 22. The three that received the most support have been included in the attached resolution. They are:

- Pursue the creation of an Innovation Fund from which municipalities could apply for grant funding to undertake innovative efforts to advance one or more high priority goals of the State of Maryland. Local governments know what will work best in their communities but it can be difficult to fund innovative local projects that do not fit in with existing grant programs.
- Pursue legislation mandating improved communication and coordination on infrastructure projects undertaken by utilities, Maryland State Highway Administration, and other entities conducting the work and with municipalities. The lack of communication and coordination with each other and with local governments adversely impacts our communities. Streets and sidewalks are sometimes torn up by one utility to address an issue after just being repaved for regular maintenance by the city or a different utility. The result is inefficiencies, environmental impacts, costs and disruption for members of our community. We need legislation to mandate coordination of construction and repairs, notice to city staff and residents, and mandated time frames in which final repaving and repairs are made to residents' property.
- Request an evaluation of the collection and distribution of business personal property tax by the State of Maryland. Collection of the tax relies heavily on self reporting by businesses. Many businesses do not file personal property tax forms and there is very little education about the need to file or enforcement of the requirement to file. The forms to be completed can be confusing and lead to inconsistent information being presented, resulting in similar businesses paying very different tax amounts. And, the distribution of personal property tax revenue to the various jurisdictions relies on self-reported information, often based on postal addresses which may be very different than corporate boundaries. In sum, many businesses

are not following the law and jurisdictions are likely receiving much less personal property tax revenue than they are owed and may be receiving revenue that should be going to an adjacent jurisdiction.

**Council Priority**

Livable Community for All; Advance Economic Development Efforts; Fiscally Sustainable Government

**Environmental Impact of Action**

N/A

**Fiscal Impact of Action**

N/A

**Attachments and Links**

- Revised draft resolution
- [Link to Legislative Action Request form](#)

Introduced by:

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND**

**RESOLUTION 2016-  
Resolution Authorizing Transmittal of Legislative Action Requests  
To the Maryland Municipal League for Consideration**

WHEREAS, the Takoma Park City Council is charged with setting policy and pursuing legislative changes in the best interests of the Takoma Park community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Takoma Park is an active member of the Maryland Municipal League; and

WHEREAS, the Maryland Municipal League pursues legislative changes to benefit Maryland municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the Council urges the Maryland Municipal League to pursue the creation of an Innovation Fund from which municipalities could receive grant funding to undertake innovative efforts to advance one or more high priority goals of the State of Maryland; and

WHEREAS, the Council urges the Maryland Municipal League to pursue legislation that would mandate coordination of construction and repairs by utilities and the State Highway Administration, and localities, provide notice to municipalities and residents, and mandate time frames in which final repaving and repairs are made to residents' property; and

~~WHEREAS, the Council urges the Maryland Municipal League to pursue legislation that would require coordination of construction and repairs by utilities and the State Highway Administration, provide notice to municipalities and residents, and mandate time frames in which final repaving and repairs are made to residents' property; and~~

WHEREAS, the Council urges the Maryland Municipal League to request an evaluation of the collection and distribution of business personal tax by the State of Maryland. Collection of the tax relies heavily on self reporting, there is very little education or enforcement of the requirements, the forms can be confusing resulting in inconsistent information being presented, and filing based on postal addresses may not necessarily reflect the corporate boundaries of a municipality thus creating the potential that revenues are being applied to the wrong jurisdiction.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Takoma Park authorizes the City Manager to transmit to the Maryland Municipal League the Legislative Action Request forms concerning Creation of an Innovation Fund, Municipal Infrastructure Communication and Coordination, and Evaluation of the Collection and Distribution of Business Personal Property Tax by the State of Maryland.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2016.

Attest:

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Jessie Carpenter, CMC  
City Clerk