



## Takoma Park City Council Meeting – October 19, 2016 Agenda Item 7

### **Work Session**

Discuss Creation of a Community Partnership Liaison Position

### **Recommended Council Action**

Discuss information provided and direct staff to proceed with creating and recruiting for a Community Partnership Liaison position.

### **Context with Key Issues**

Over the past several years there has been increasing interest in working to maximize the provision of services to seniors, young people and persons with special needs. While it is not a primary function of a municipal government to provide social services, the City of Takoma Park has begun to connect residents with agencies and organizations that provide services that could assist them. The Lifelong Takoma program was established with a half-time position to help connect seniors and persons with disabilities with services, and there has been financial support to several organizations that provide services to children, teenagers and young adults, but there has not been a comprehensive approach to developing partnerships with other organizations to meet Takoma Park resident needs.

Earlier this year, Council decided to change the way the City allocates funding to outside organizations that provide services, or that supplement City services, to Takoma Park residents. The result is the new Community Partnership Program, which is distinct from the Community Grants program. The idea behind the change is to ensure that, similar to the Grants Program, there is a fair and equitable process for determining which organizations the City formally contracts with to provide services to help meet Council goals.

In just the last year, the capacity of several organizations to provide services has grown, as has the commitment to provide avenues to youth success. In order to capitalize on the opportunities, a new City position, a Community Partnership Liaison, is being recommended. The new position would be charged with identifying and fostering partnerships with agencies and organizations to serve Takoma Park residents.

Earlier this year, Council outlined the following strategies to address the Council priority related to identifying youth and family programming needs:

- Dedicate staff charged with identifying existing resources, and developing, implementing and coordinating program(s) that provide youth and family services and engage youth in civic activities (*possible new position*).
- Allocate additional funding for youth programming and *coordination of services* for youth.

In addition to serving as a liaison to organizations focused on youth and family success, we envision the person in this position could also serve as a partner and City liaison to other governmental

agencies and organizations that focus on senior living, persons with developmental disabilities, arts and humanities, physical and mental health, empowerment, and engagement.

Regarding partnership with organizations geared toward seniors, we envision this position would supplant the existing Lifelong Takoma Program Manager position. With the growth and success of the Village of Takoma Park over the past several years, there is an opportunity to rethink the type of support for seniors provided by the City through Lifelong Takoma.

In sum, the creation of a new position that could serve as a liaison to partnering organizations and could help identify organizations with which the City could partner would greatly benefit the City and help advance the Council's adopted priorities and goals.

### **Council Priorities**

A Livable Community for All; Fiscally Sustainable Government; Engaged, Responsive & Service Oriented Government

### **Environmental Impact of Action**

N/A

### **Fiscal Impact of Action**

Minimal. The FY 2017 budget includes funding for a part-time position geared toward youth success initiatives that does not yet exist, and funding for a part-time Lifelong Takoma Program Manager position. If Council approves of the proposal to create a new Community Partnership Liaison position, we would combine the two part-time FTEs into a single position.

### **Attachments and Links**

- Council Priorities page: <https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/city-council/city-council-priorities/>