



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – January 11, 2016 Agenda Item 3

Work Session

Proposed “City of Takoma Park Scholarship” for Montgomery College Student(s)

Recommended Council Action

Discuss providing scholarship funds to Montgomery College and consider award preferences; authorize staff to make necessary arrangements with Montgomery College for distribution of the funds.

Context with Key Issues

The Council included \$5,000 in the Fiscal Year 2017 budget for the purpose of creating a scholarship award for college students. While meeting with representatives of Montgomery College in November, including Dr. DeRionne Pollard, President, and Dr. Brad Stewart, Vice President and Provost of the Takoma Park-Silver Spring Campus, the Council learned more about the financial needs of students who attend Montgomery College’s Takoma Park-Silver Spring campus. The idea was discussed by a few Council members to consider providing the budgeted funds to Montgomery College, which could administer them based on criteria established by the City.

Staff in Montgomery College’s Office of Grants and Sponsored suggested using the \$5,000 to provide financial assistance to five students with \$1,000 scholarships each, \$500 for the fall and \$500 for the spring, which would cover two three-credit courses. The following “scholarship award preferences” were also proposed for consideration (it should be noted that the term “preferences” is used instead of “criteria” because there may not be students who meet all of these considerations):

- Student qualifies for financial need as determined by FAFSA.
- Student is a resident of Takoma Park.
- Preference for students in the Achieving Collegiate Excellence and Success (ACES) program (<http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/EDU/Department.aspx?id=54902>).
- Student must have a minimum GPA of 2.5.

We would also ask that Montgomery College provide the City with the names and contact information of the students receiving the scholarships so the City could recognize them as Council deems appropriate.

In order for students to benefit from the funds during the upcoming spring semester, Council would need to make a decision prior to January 23, which is the first day of classes.

Council Priority

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

Environmental Impact of Action

N/A

Fiscal Impact of Action

If authorized by Council, \$5,000 would be transferred to Montgomery College to be used for scholarships based on the agreed upon preference criteria.

Attachments and Links

N/A