



CITY OF TAKOMA PARK

City Manager Comments

Report for City Council Meeting of February 8, 2017

Follow-up from Last Council Meeting

Leaves in Ward 3

Councilmember Qureshi noted that there were piles of leaves near the street on a few streets in the Pinecrest area of Ward 3. Staff confirmed that leaves were collected in the areas at least twice during the vacuum leaf collection season, so it is likely that leaves were raked to the curb after leaf collection concluded. Public Works crews have passed through the neighborhood again in response to Councilmember Qureshi's request. Residents should be reminded that we provide weekly yard waste collection year round on Mondays that aren't holidays. Leaves not collected during the vacuum leaf collection period should be put in paper bags or stiff sided containers for the Monday yard waste collection.

WMATA Proposed Cuts and Racial Equity

Mayor Stewart requested that staff look into the proposed WMATA service reductions that impact Takoma Park and try to determine whether they would disproportionately impact people of color. The proposals include reduced service on the F1 and F2 routes and the elimination of service on the J1 and J5 routes.

Using data from the most recent Metrobus survey, which was conducted in 2014, Planning Intern Jamee Ernst concluded the following:

- Almost all of the F1 and F2 riders surveyed live in Prince George's County and DC, with less than 2% of riders indicating that they reside in Montgomery County. However, 76% of the J1 and J5 riders do live in Montgomery County. WMATA data does not specify the city of residence, only the county.
- In terms of race, around 76% of F1 and F2 riders identified as Black/African American while a small percentage identified as Hispanic/ Latino or Two or More Races. The riders of the J1 and J5 lines were much more racially diverse with an almost equal percentage of Black and White riders (34 and 33% respectively), 17% identifying as Hispanic or Latino, and 9% identifying as Asian.
- As to income distribution for the two routes, 68% of riders earn from \$10,000 to \$49,000 on the F1 and F2 route. In contrast, almost half of the riders on J1 and J5 fall into the upper income bracket, earning from \$50,000 to \$200,000 or more.
- Based on this information, it seems that the F1 and F2 routes primarily serve lower income persons of color, but very few of the riders actually live in

Montgomery County. In contrast, the J1 and J5 route is more racially and economically diverse and serves primarily Montgomery County residents.

Information to Share

Staff Racial Equity Training

Leon Andrews, Director of the National League of Cities' Race, Equity, and Leadership (REAL) program joined Department Heads and other key staff at their monthly meeting held last week. At the meeting, Mr. Andrews discussed the pervasiveness of institutionalized racism and presented information on the topic of racial equity in the context of government decision-making – the same presentation that was provided to the Council at their first Council Retreat session earlier this month – and led a discussion among staff present. The presentation was very well received and staff is excited about their role in assisting Council consider racial equity as you establish policy and makes budget decisions moving forward.

For residents who wish to learn more about the REAL program, go to:
<http://www.nlc.org/program-initiative/race-equity-and-leadership-real>.

Budget Preparation

Staff work preparing the budget is underway, with the first round of internal departmental operating budget meetings completed. Each department is now entering their operating budget numbers into the budget program for detailed review beginning February 21. Next week, we will receive the Constant Yield information from the State that will provide us information on real property value in the City.

Kudos

Kudos to all the staff involved in making this past weekend's Sanctuary City Teach-in a very successful event. Special thanks to Jeremy Dickey for media promotion/ coordination, and to Debby Huffman and John Webster from Recreation and to the City TV staff for their planning efforts and for being flexible and dealing with the large number of attendees in an effective and professional manner. I also appreciate the help from the Police Department. It was a challenging weekend, with a number of activities and a LOT of people.

My Schedule

I will be out of the office on Thursday and Friday this week, February 9 and 10.