



# CITY OF TAKOMA PARK

## City Manager Comments

Report for City Council Meeting of February 15, 2017

### *Follow-up from Last Council Meeting*

#### **Information on Parking Ticket Late Fees**

Councilmember Qureshi expressed concern regarding the 15 days window after which late fees are incurred for parking tickets. We are still looking into the history and rationale behind the establishment of the 15 day window. Montgomery County utilizes the same approach, so it's likely that our system was initially based on theirs. If the Council would like to extend the window, it would be preferable to address the issue as part of our larger parking study/initiative later this year. Based on historical ticket revenue data, we would estimate that extending the window before a late fee is applied from 15 to 30 days would likely result in an annual loss in revenues of about \$30,000.

#### **“Together, We”**

Mayor Stewart requested that the poem read by the City's Poet Laureate, Merrill Leffler, at the Sanctuary City Teach-in event be posted on the City's website. While it was already posted via the City's social media, the poem along with a recording of it is now accessible on the website: <https://takomaparkmd.gov/news/together-we-by-poet-laureate-merrill-leffler/>.

### *Information to Share*

#### **TPPD Receives High Score for Complaint Process Compliance and Transparency on Website**

The Montgomery County Civil Rights Coalition posted a review of the information on Montgomery County and Prince George's County police departments' websites related to compliance with state transparency requirements and information related to key reforms of the police brutality complaint process. Takoma Park had the second highest score out of the 31 municipalities that received scores. The score is recognition that the Takoma Park Police Department's complaint processes are posted and are appropriately “generously deadlines, easy to find and understand, yet hard to abuse,” that bargaining agreements are thorough and cover more than just wages, and that there is transparency in how community policing occurs. More information, including descriptions of the score criteria, is available in the online report: <https://mocoivilrights.wordpress.com/2017/01/22/many-moco-pg-police-departments-fail-to-comply-with-complaint-process-transparency-reforms/?blogsub=confirming#subscribe-blog>.

#### **Takoma Junction Community Meetings**

Two identical meetings will be held next week to solicit community input on specific design elements for the Takoma Junction redevelopment project. The first set of meetings will look at the topics of form and character with market and retail ideas. The two meetings will have the same content and opportunity for feedback. They will be held on:

- Thursday, Feb 23, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the community meeting room at the Fire Station, 7201 Carroll Avenue
- Sunday, Feb 26, 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the Azalea Room at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue

The second set of meetings, which will look at public realm and access and mobility, will be held on:

- Thursday, March 9, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Azalea Room at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue
- Sunday, March 12, 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the community meeting room at the Fire Station, 7201 Carroll Avenue

If you are interested in following the progress of the planned development, please check the project page on the city's web site. The site is update regularly and includes a variety of information about the project: <https://takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/takoma-jefferson-redevelopment/>.

### **Takoma Park Community Grants Program**

A Call for Letters of Inquiry for the FY18 cycle of the Community Grants Program was announced on Monday, February 13. The deadline for submission of Letters of Inquiry is Monday, March 13 at 4:30 p.m. To assist prospective applications, two informational sessions have been scheduled. The first will be held on Wednesday, February 22 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and the second on Thursday, March 2 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Both meetings will be held in the Hydrangea Room at the Community Center.

Program guidelines and a variety of information of interest to prospective applicants are posted on the Community Grants page of the City's website:

<https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/housing-and-community-development/grant-programs/community-grants/>

The Community Grants program is designed to provide financial support for specific programs, projects and events that provide greater access and opportunities for participation in the arts, science, technology, engineering and math. Examples of eligible projects include science and/or math clubs, robotics clubs, computer programming classes, concert and film series, public art, maker spaces, and technology-based internship or apprenticeship programs.

If Council Members have a specific organization they would like to receive targeted outreach, please provide that organization's current contact information to [housing@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:housing@takomaparkmd.gov) so that staff can follow-up.

### **Capital Bikeshare Update: Two New Stations in the Takoma Langley Crossroads**

Two new Capital Bikeshare stations were installed in the Takoma Langley Crossroads today bringing the City up to a total of seven stations. The stations are located at the Takoma Park

Recreation Center on New Hampshire Avenue and on Kirklynn Avenue at New Hampshire Avenue not far from the new Takoma Langley Crossroads Transit Center. The Bikeshare expansion will better connect the City and surrounding region and allow riders to more easily and safely ride on City streets.

Additional information on the two new sites can be found on the City's website at <http://takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/bikeshare-expansion/>.

### **Summer Youth Employment Program**

The Recreation Department held the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) Business Interest Meeting today for the upcoming summer. The SYEP program is an eight week City program, running from June 26 - Aug 19, where we connect local youth with training and employment opportunities. The Recreation Department has funding for approximately eight participants to work at various local businesses. Participants complete a "boot camp" in June learning various soft skills (i.e. customer service, diversity training, fiscal responsibility, time management, etc.) and receive job-specific training and coaching on site. Currently TPSS Co-op and WAH have committed to participate this summer. If you know of any other organizations or businesses that would be interested in participating in the program, please let us know!

### **Council Guidance Requested on Small Cell Action**

The City of Gaithersburg, along with a coalition of other Maryland jurisdictions (including Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, Frederick, Greenbelt, and others) are retaining outside counsel to file comments and represent a coalition of local governments' interests in an FCC action regarding small cell facilities. In the FCC petition, Mobilite and other wireless broadband providers seek to stop "excessive and unfair rights of way fees that are impeding wireless broadband deployment" and ask the FCC to adopt regulations to prevent states and localities from charging fair market rents for use of public rights-of-way or to charge fees or regulate rates for other properties owned by states or localities such as street lights, poles, conduits, and the like.

If successful, this would drastically limit the authority of local governments to regulate where the cell antennae can be installed and the compensation for using rights-of-way. We have been asked to join the coalition and contribute \$2,000 towards the legal services. The dollar amount was established based on population size.