



CITY OF TAKOMA PARK

City Manager Comments

Report for City Council Meeting of October 11, 2017

Follow Up to Last Council Meeting

Procedures and Data related to Alcohol and Public Drunkenness

Councilmember Qureshi asked for information about how our Police Officers handle situations when they come into contact with members of the public who are under the influence of alcohol, as well as for available data on the frequency of such occurrences. When officers encounter people under the influence it mostly leads to assisting them to their home or destination or, if necessary based on the level of impairment, calling for medical care. Our officers typically only give citations when called and there are other violations or when an officer observes the public consumption of alcohol. Most of the alcohol-related calls we receive involve disorderly subjects from bars/restaurants or subjects who are passed out in the New Hampshire Avenue corridor. We responded to approximately 19 calls for service involving alcohol since April 1, 2017 (one incident involved a minor). The Police Department does do occasional bar/restaurant checks to ensure that alcohol violations are not observed such as serving after hours, serving minors, and serving subjects who are visibly intoxicated. We have worked in conjunction with the Liquor Board to address these issues.

Safe Grow Ordinance Citations

Councilmember Kovar asked about the number of citations issued for Safe Grow Ordinance violations. Since the ordinance went into effect, we have responded to about 20 reports of possible violations. Of those cases, we issued seven Notices of Violations and one citation.

Information to Share

Community Meeting on Flower Ave and Sligo Creek Pkwy Traffic Calming

On Monday, October 16 at 7:30 pm, a community meeting will be held to review plans for the intersection of Flower Avenue and Sligo Creek Parkway. The initial request for traffic calming was made a couple of years ago and staff has developed a design, in consultation with MNCPPC (the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission), the owner of that section of street. The meeting will be held in the Lilac Room of the Community Center. [Plans](https://takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/flsi/) are posted on the Project Directory page of the City website (<https://takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/flsi/>).

Community Meeting on Gude Ave Sidewalk Improvements

On Thursday, October 26 at 7:30 pm, a community meeting will be held to review options for sidewalk improvements along Gude Avenue. The meeting will be held in the Lilac Room of the Community Center.

Lights On After School – Tiny Chef’s Inc.

On Thursday, October 26 from 4:00-6:00 pm the Recreation Department will be taking part in the 18th annual Lights on After School program. Lights On Afterschool is a program that is designed to support students by offering them opportunities to learn new things – such as science, community service, robotics, Tae Kwon Do, poetry, etc. – and discover new skills. The events send a powerful message that millions more kids need quality afterschool programs. The program for the event is a culinary demo (Halloween themed dessert) instructed by Tiny

Chefs Inc. for our Afternoon Addition participants grades K-5. The event will take place in the Lilac Room of the Community Center.

Housing and Economic Development Strategic Plan

The Housing and Economic Data Analysis and SWOT Analysis, two of the three components of the upcoming Strategic Plan, have been finalized and posted on the City's website. The documents inform and provide a framework for the Strategic Plan which is to be presented to the City Council next week.

The reports can be accessed from the following links:

- [Housing and Economic Development Strategic Plan – Project Page](https://takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/housing-and-economic-development-strategic-plan/)
<https://takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/housing-and-economic-development-strategic-plan/>
- [Report 1: Housing and Economic Data Analysis](https://documents-takomapark.s3.amazonaws.com/housing-and-community-development/Strategic%20Plan/FINAL_Takoma_Park_Housing_Economic_Data_Analysis_Oct2017.pdf)
https://documents-takomapark.s3.amazonaws.com/housing-and-community-development/Strategic%20Plan/FINAL_Takoma_Park_Housing_Economic_Data_Analysis_Oct2017.pdf
- [Report 2: SWOT Analysis](https://documents-takomapark.s3.amazonaws.com/housing-and-community-development/Strategic%20Plan/FINAL_Takoma_Housing_Economic_SWOT_Analysis_Oct2017.pdf)
https://documents-takomapark.s3.amazonaws.com/housing-and-community-development/Strategic%20Plan/FINAL_Takoma_Housing_Economic_SWOT_Analysis_Oct2017.pdf

Best Practices in Affordable Housing and Property Management

Late last month, HCD staff participated in the Maryland Housing Conference sponsored by our partners, Maryland DHCD, Maryland Affordable Housing Coalition, and the Community Development Network of Maryland. This year's theme, "Collaborate, Innovate, and Impact" aligned with the Division's mission to innovate and significantly impact affordable housing in Takoma Park through initiating partnerships with stakeholders and providing technical assistance across programs. This year's conference was an opportunity to hear what's new and good in housing in Maryland. This week, housing staff participated in a Mediation and De-escalation Training for Property Managers in hopes to learn more effective ways to reduce tense situations. This two-hour course was sponsored by the Maryland Affordable Housing Coalition and conducted by the Anne Arundel Conflict Resolution Center.

Takoma Park Middle School Addition Community Meetings

Montgomery County Public Schools is planning an expansion for Takoma Park Middle School due to the rapidly growing school-aged population in this area. The first of two scheduled work sessions was held on Thursday, October 5. The second will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the school on Thursday, October 19.

Diwali Festival of Lights

Don't miss the full day of cultural performances this coming Sunday, October 15 from noon until 6 pm. Held at Hampshire Place (7505 New Hampshire Avenue), it will feature classical, folk & Bollywood dance plus children's storyteller, Meena Nakak. A variety of vendors will offer traditional jewelry, clothes, housewares, home decor, gifts and more. A henna artist will be available to apply ceremonial designs. Food vendors, including award-winning Indigo DC, will be preparing authentic South Asian dishes including street food, traditional beverages and regional specialties including curries, kabobs, samosas, lassis and more. The event is sponsored by the city of Takoma Park and its partners, Takoma Langley Crossroads

Development Authority (CDA), and Prince George's County, with the Hindu Temple of Metropolitan Washington, Adelphi.

Behind the Badge

One of many things we are doing to continue to strengthen community-police relations is a new social media campaign we're calling "Behind the Badge," where we'll occasionally post pictures of our officers with personal messages. We have found that youth in the community get much of their information through social media rather than email blasts or websites, and expect this will be a great way to "humanize" our officers and show that they share similar interests, hobbies, etc. in their personal lives. Here's an example of a recent post 😊:



Hiring Update

We are currently advertising for a number of positions, including Police Chief, Council Intern, Police Intern, Arts and Humanities Intern, Housing and Community Services Intern, Custodian, Licensing Specialist, Economic Development Specialist (limited-term position), Dispatcher, Parking Enforcement Officer, Sanitation Driver, Sanitation Driver, Right-of-Way Tech, Recreation Program Leader, and Recreation Program Assistant.

October Work Schedule

The International City-County Management Association (ICMA) Conference will be held October 22-25 in San Antonio, Texas. I will be attending the Conference October 21-25, but will be present for the Council meeting on the 25th. Jason Damweber will be at the Conference as well, but will return to the office October 30.

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