



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – April 12, 2017 Agenda Item 3

Voting Session

Resolution Encouraging Takoma Park Landlords to House Refugees

Recommended Council Action

To approve the Resolution

Context with Key Issues

The Council, at the recommendation of a member of the community during its February 15, 2017 discussion of a property tax exemption requested by local affordable housing provider, Montgomery Housing Partnership, encouraged the firm to house Syrian refugees. Given the City's Sanctuary City status and the Council's desire to "work with other levels of government, non-governmental agencies and residents of the City to identify ways in which the community can provide support for refugee families relocating to the Takoma Park area" as noted in Resolution #2015-66, staff has proposed the adoption of the accompanying resolution encouraging all local landlords, regardless of their organizational structure, to rent to refugee households, regardless of their country of origin.

Council Priority

A Livable Community for All with the goal of continuing to be a welcoming and inclusive community for all residents.

Environmental Impact of Action

N/A

Fiscal Impact of Action

N/A

Racial Equity Impact of Action

We believe that this Council action may advance opportunities for residents who are refugees and immigrants. Additionally, we believe this action will improve overall access to housing and in some cases, services, for these groups. Given the nature of this resolution and its stakeholders, it will measurably advance the Council's goals for racial equity across City government.

Attachments and Links

Resolution Encouraging Takoma Park Landlords to House Refugees

Introduced by: Councilmember

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

**RESOLUTION 2017-
ENCOURAGING TAKOMA PARK LANDLORDS TO HOUSE REFUGEES**

WHEREAS, the City of Takoma Park has a long history of welcoming immigrants and building a caring, inclusive and strong community which celebrates its diversity; and

WHEREAS, our neighbors include individuals from all parts of the world who speak many different languages and represent many cultures, making Takoma Park truly a city of immigrants; and

WHEREAS, over 60 million people around the world have been forced out of their home because of war or civil unrest, among them 20 million refugees; and

WHEREAS, opening our doors to those who are fleeing violence does not endanger our safety; but rather shows our compassion and hope; and

WHEREAS, access to safe, quality, and stable housing is one way that the community can work together to provide support to refugee families relocating to Takoma Park; and

WHEREAS, roughly half of the housing stock in the community is provided on a rental basis by both nonprofit and for profit property owners; and

WHEREAS, the City Council, reaffirming the City of Takoma Park's commitment to remain a place of sanctuary and a safe haven for refugees from around the world, has identified as a priority goal for 2017, the continuation of work to "be a welcoming and inclusive community for all residents."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of Takoma Park, Maryland hereby encourages Takoma Park landlords to open their doors and provide housing to refugees, regardless of their national origin, as we work together to create a livable community for all.

Adopted by the Council of the City of Takoma Park this ____ day of _____, 2017.

Attest:

Jessie Carpenter, CMC
City Clerk