



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – July 19, 2017 Agenda Item 1

Voting Session

Resolution Authorizing Submittal of MML Legislative Action Requests

Recommended Council Action

Consider and vote on the resolution.

Context with Key Issues

Each year, the Maryland Municipal League determines its legislative priorities based on Legislative Action Requests (LARs) submitted by Maryland municipalities and MML chapters and departments, and on priority issues not resolved from the prior session. The LARs are reviewed by MML staff and provided to the MML Legislative Committee for consideration to recommend to the membership at the fall conference. The LARs are due to MML by July 28.

At the work session on July 12, the City Council discussed ideas to put forward to MML. The three priorities selected for submission are:

1. Appropriation of funding in the State budget for the National Capital Strategic Economic Development Fund. In the 2017 Session, the General Assembly enacted, and the Governor signed, HB 1345 establishing the National Capital Strategic Economic Development Fund. The purpose of the Fund is to provide grants to assist local governments and nonprofits in predevelopment activities for commercial and residential development, including site acquisition, land assembly, architecture and engineering, and site development, for revitalization in areas designated as Sustainable Communities. If the Governor includes an appropriation to the fund in the annual budget bill, 85% of the appropriation is to be allocated for projects in areas located between Interstate 495 and the District of Columbia.
2. Allocation of a portion of the State Sales Tax to municipalities. Maryland municipalities control few options to raise revenue, resulting in a heavy dependence on property taxes. Increasing real property taxes can place a substantial burden on some homeowners. Business personal property tax is self reported, the forms are often confusing, and the tax is inconsistently collected, distributed, and enforced. Business personal property tax can also be a disincentive for certain types of businesses to move to or remain in a municipality that levies this tax. Small local businesses can be especially disadvantaged. Allocation of a portion of the State Sales Tax to municipalities would provide more revenue flexibility and lessen the need to rely as heavily on property tax.

3. Require at least 30% of the funds received from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) to be used for efforts that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, such as energy efficiency retrofits for homes or apartments of low-income residents. As a member state of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States, Maryland receives proceeds from auctioning CO₂ allowances. Maryland uses a large percentage of its proceeds to fund direct energy bill payment assistance for low income residents but should do much more to increase efficiency and promote renewables.

Council Priority

Livable Community for All; Advance Economic Development Efforts; Fiscally Sustainable Government

Environmental Impact of Action

We believe the action could lead to more funding availability to reduce carbon emissions.

Fiscal Impact of Action

We believe the action could lead to increased revenue for the City.

Racial Equity Impact of Action

We do not believe the action will disproportionately impact any particular group.

Attachments and Links

- Draft resolution

Introduced by:

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

**RESOLUTION 2017-
Resolution Authorizing Transmittal of Legislative Action Requests
To the Maryland Municipal League for Consideration**

- WHEREAS, the Takoma Park City Council is charged with setting policy and pursuing legislative changes in the best interests of the Takoma Park community; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Takoma Park is an active member of the Maryland Municipal League (MML); and
- WHEREAS, MML pursues legislative changes to benefit Maryland municipalities; and
- WHEREAS, the City Council has identified three requests to forward to MML for its consideration as legislative priorities for the League; and
- WHEREAS, the Council urges the Maryland Municipal League to pursue appropriation of funding in the State budget for the National Capital Strategic Economic Development Fund which would provide grants to assist local governments and nonprofits in predevelopment activities for revitalization in areas designated as Sustainable Communities; and
- WHEREAS, the Council urges the Maryland Municipal League to pursue legislation that would require allocation of a portion of the State Sales Tax to municipalities; and
- WHEREAS, the Council urges the Maryland Municipal League to pursue legislation that would require at least 30% of the funds received from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) to be used for efforts that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, such as energy efficiency retrofits for homes or apartments of low-income residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Takoma Park authorizes the City Manager to transmit to the Maryland Municipal League the Legislative Action Request forms concerning the National Capital Strategic Economic Development Fund, allocation of State Sales Tax, and Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative funds.

Adopted this _____ day of July, 2017

Attest:

Jessie Carpenter, CMC
City Clerk