



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – October 25, 2017 Agenda Item 7

Work Session

Discussion of a Proposed Amendment to the City Charter, Section 702 - Council Not to Interfere with Appointments or Removals

Recommended Council Action

Consider whether to amend the City Charter to prescribe the City Council's role in the appointment and removal of City employees.

Context with Key Issues

The Charter vests responsibility for personnel management, including the appointment and removal of City employees, with the City Manager. The Charter currently provides that “[n]either the Council nor any of its members shall direct or request the appointment of any person to, or removal from, office by the City Manager or any of the manager’s subordinates, or in any manner take part in the appointment or removal” of City employees. The City Council is concerned that the selection and removal of executive employees is critical to the implementation of the policies established by the Council and to the confidence residents have in City Government and that the Charter, as it currently reads, unduly restricts the Council from providing input on such decisions.

Council Priority

Engaged, Responsive & Service-oriented Government

Environmental Impact of Action

None.

Fiscal Impact of Action

None.

Racial Equity Impact of Action

None.

Attachments and Links

- Proposed Charter amendment language.

Proposed Amendment to Section 702 of the Takoma Park Municipal Charter

October 25, 2017, Work Session

Section 702 Council Not to Interfere with Appointments or Removals

Neither the Council nor any of its members shall direct or request the appointment of any person to, or removal from, office by the City Manager or any of the manager's subordinates, or ~~in any manner~~ take part in the appointment or removal of officers and employees in the administrative services of the City except in ways the City Manager deems useful and solicits from the Council, such as the identification of desirable character traits, experience, knowledge, skills and abilities of persons to fill certain positions. Except for the purpose of inquiry, the Council and its members shall deal with the administration solely through the City Manager and neither the Council nor any member thereof shall give orders to any subordinates of the City Manager, either publicly or privately.