

TAKOMA PARK CITY COUNCIL PRIORITIES



FISCAL YEAR 2018

Programs to Advance Council Priorities, April 24 , 2017

Fiscal Year 2018 Programs to Advance Council Priorities

Agenda

1. Ready for Action
2. Council Priorities Overview
3. A Livable Community for All
4. Fiscally Sustainable Government
5. Environmentally Sustainable Government
6. Engaged, Responsive, Service-Oriented Government
7. Advance Economic Development Efforts
8. Racial Equity
9. Budget Schedule



Council Priorities

Ready for Action

- In late 2015, a new Council and a new set of Council Priorities spurred a fresh look at City initiatives and services
- In November 2016, the accomplishments to date were reviewed and it was clear that much had been accomplished and the framework was set for advancing longer term goals for economic health and a livable community:
 - A Housing Reserve was established
 - An economic development and housing strategic plan is underway
 - Departments oriented their programs towards achieving the Council's Priorities



Council Priorities

Council established its priorities for FY18 at January 2017 retreats. Proposed budget is focused on them, and the proposed tax rate is designed to see that the priorities are met despite potential negative changes at the federal level.

- **A Livable Community For All**
- **Fiscally Sustainable Government**
- **Environmentally Sustainable Community**
- **Engaged, Responsive, Service-oriented Government**
- **Advance Economic Development Efforts**

- **Racial Equity**

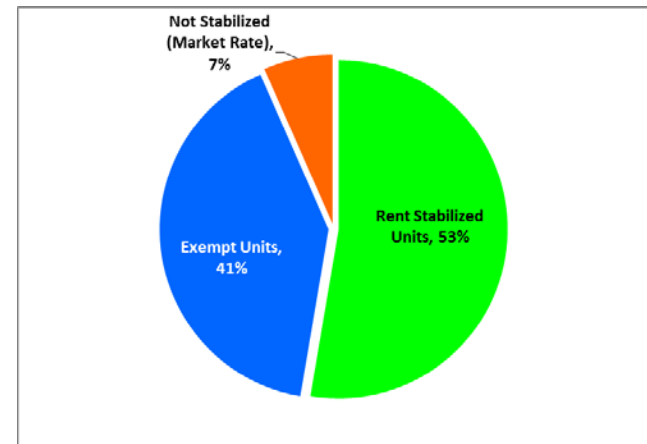
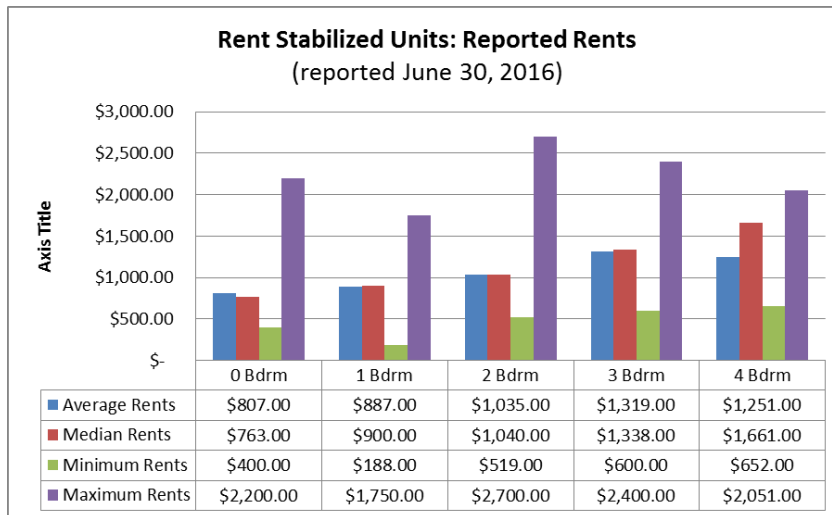


Programs to Advance Council Priorities

- **A Livable Community For All**

- **Housing**

- Begin implementing recommendations of housing study now underway
 - Contribute \$300,000 to the Housing Reserve, the use of which will be part of the housing study recommendations
 - Continue rent stabilization program



Programs to Advance Council Priorities

- **A Livable Community For All**
 - Housing, continued
 - Assist lower-income home owners with energy saving improvements for their homes
 - Assist owners of multi-family properties with energy saving improvements for their buildings
 - Continue affordable housing programs, including Home Stretch program; leverage federal, state and county funds when possible
 - Designate \$140,000 for City's supplement to Homeowner Tax Credit program for lower-income home owners
 - This year 140 households will receive this supplement
 - The average check amount is \$991.00



Programs to Advance Council Priorities

- **A Livable Community For All**
 - Renovate and expand the Takoma Park Library
 - Bring this vital educational and cultural resource up to standards as a modern library structure meeting Americans with Disability Act requirements
 - Provide adequate space for books and other resources, particularly those that serve children, young adults, seniors, immigrants, persons with disabilities, and others
 - Provide adequate space for programming geared to these same populations, encouraging a love of reading and helping build community
 - Improve the library structure so that it is attractive and meets high standards of environmental sustainability and energy efficiency



Programs to Advance Council Priorities

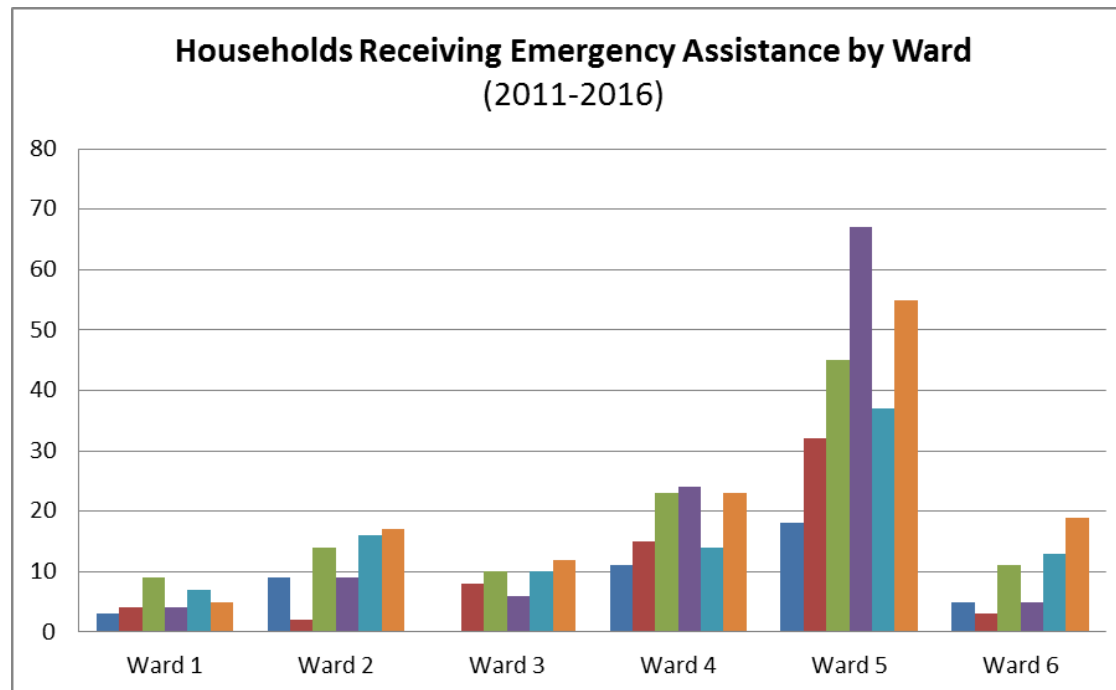
- **A Livable Community For All**
 - Complete the Sligo Mill Overlook Park
 - Invest in sidewalk and road improvements, including the Flower Avenue Green Street and Ethan Allen Gateway projects
 - Provide \$100,000 for community partners to advance Council Priorities; another \$20,000 is undesignated in the Council's Legislative budget that may also be used to advance Priorities
 - Provide five \$1,000 scholarships for Takoma Park students attending Montgomery College
 - Continue to support major community events and arts programming
 - Continue to provide scholarships for lower-income residents in most City programs, classes and activities



Programs to Advance Council Priorities

- **A Livable Community For All**

- Provide \$9,150 in CDBG funds for EduCare and Village of TP
- Continue financial support for emergency assistance services (\$30,000 plus donations from Stormwater Fee billing)



Programs to Advance Council Priorities

- **A Livable Community For All**
 - Continue to support major community events and arts programming
 - \$95,000 for grant programs
 - \$17,280 for the Arts Commission
 - \$17,500 for the Independence Day Committee
 - \$20,000 for the Takoma Park Folk Festival
 - Staff assistance from Police, Public Works and other departments for many other community festivals and events
 - Support for four Play Days
 - Sponsorship of Celebrate Takoma and National Night Out



we are
TAKOMA



Programs to Advance Council Priorities

- **Fiscally Sustainable Community**

- Establish a tax rate that modestly increases revenue and preserve the City's reserve funds to protect the City's financial base during upcoming years due to possible cuts in federal employment, contracts and aid
 - Tax rate to decrease from \$0.5675 to \$0.56
 - \$800,000 contribution to Equipment Replacement Reserve
 - \$300,000 contribution to Facility Maintenance Reserve
- Review financial policies and priorities to maintain the highest standards of fiscal responsibility and to align, where possible, investment that advances community values
- Continue funds for lobbying and communication efforts to more successfully address tax duplication issues
- Contribute \$100,000 in excess of the actuarially-recommended amount for the Police Employees' Retirement Plan



Programs to Advance Council Priorities

- **Environmentally Sustainable Government**
 - Commit to doing our part to slow and clean water going to the Anacostia Watershed and the Chesapeake Bay and also meet Federal and State clean water regulations by undertaking \$810,350 in stormwater projects and increasing maintenance activities, funded by an increased base Stormwater Management Fee; fee to be raised from \$55 to \$92 and paid by all who impact stormwater system, including property owners who do not pay property taxes



Programs to Advance Council Priorities

- **Environmentally Sustainable Government**
 - Continue education and incentive programs for the Green Home Certification competition and the Sustainable Energy Action Plan, with an emphasis on multifamily and commercial buildings and assisting low and moderate income homeowners
 - Continue efforts to increase the tree canopy
 - Continue conversion of streetlights to LED fixtures
 - Renovate Library to meet high environmental standards



Programs to Advance Council Priorities

- **Engaged, Responsive, Service-oriented Government**
 - Undertake Community Survey (\$50,000) to gather information to improve and target programs, services and communication methods; evaluate police/community relations; and provide base information for the Council's Racial Equity efforts
 - Adjustment in structure of Recreation Department to create an Outreach division focused on youth success and addition of therapeutic recreation class for those with certain disabilities



Programs to Advance Council Priorities

- **Engaged, Responsive, Service-oriented Government**
 - Continue efforts to enhance Police – Community relations and provide detailed information to the public on public safety matters, crime trends, complaints, and initiatives



Programs to Advance Council Priorities

- **Advance Economic Development Efforts**
 - Begin implementing recommendations of the economic development strategic plan now being prepared
 - Add new temporary full-time position to assist in economic development outreach
 - Contract with Old Takoma Business Association and Takoma/Langley Crossroads Development Authority for economic development services (\$35,000 each)



Racial Equity

How does the FY18 budget advance racial equity in Takoma Park?

- Individual projects and programs are assessed to see who benefits from each
- Also important to look at revenue, particularly who pays and who benefits from the property tax rate
- What isn't done is as important as what is done



Racial Equity

How does the FY18 budget advance racial equity in Takoma Park?

- **Individual projects and programs are assessed to see who benefits from each**
 - Each of the three wards with the largest percentages of residents of color has a major construction project planned: Ward 4 – Library, Ward 5 – Flower Avenue Green Street, Ward 6 – Ethan Allen Gateway Project
 - Most housing, scholarship, grant, and financial assistance programs would tend to help people of color at a higher level



Racial Equity

How does the FY18 budget advance racial equity in Takoma Park?

- **Important to look at revenue, particularly who pays and who benefits from the property tax rate**
 - In Takoma Park, home owners (who pay real property taxes) are more likely to be white and renters are more likely to be people of color.
 - 71.1% of homeowner households are white
 - 71.1% of renter households are in a different racial category than white



Racial Equity

How does the FY18 budget advance racial equity in Takoma Park?

- **Important to look at revenue, particularly who pays and who benefits from the property tax rate**
 - Owners of apartment buildings are either subject to rent stabilization or they are under agreements to have a certain percentage of their units occupied by low to moderate income residents; 13 of 22 properties in this second category have Payment in Lieu of Taxes agreements with the County and/or City. In either event, the impact of increased property taxes on tenants is somewhat limited.



Racial Equity

How does the FY18 budget advance racial equity in Takoma Park?

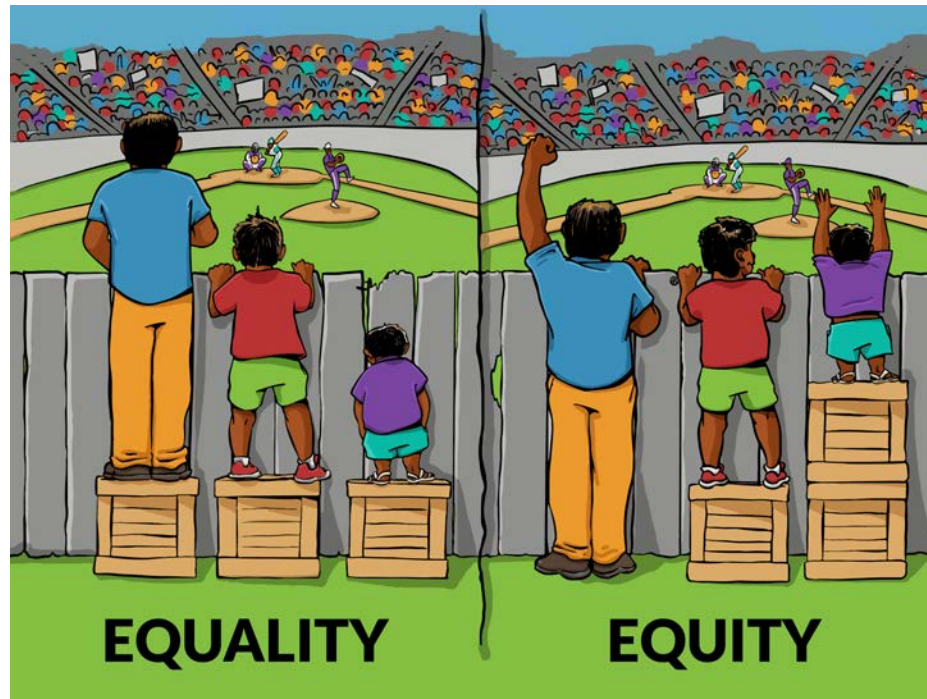
- **Important to look at revenue, particularly who pays and who benefits from the property tax rate**
 - There are a number of home owners who need help with paying property taxes; the City assists those who meet State Homeowners Property Tax Credit criteria. We do not have records regarding the race of recipients. The City spends about \$140,000 each year for this program.
 - The County offers a number of programs to assist home owners with property taxes, including a new one (Bill 42-16) that helps people over 65 who have lived in their home for at least 40 years and helps Veterans. Because County taxes make up the majority of an owner's property taxes, these County credits are very helpful.



Racial Equity

How does the FY18 budget advance racial equity in Takoma Park?

- **What isn't done is as important as what is done**
 - If the tax rate is too low, there will not be funds to help those who need assistance – even other property owners



Racial Equity

How does the FY18 budget advance racial equity in Takoma Park?

- **What isn't done is as important as what is done**
 - For example, keeping the tax rate at the Constant Yield Rate would keep an owner of a \$300,000 property from paying \$78 more in FY18, but losing the additional property tax revenue Citywide could keep a lower income owner from receiving the average \$1,000 we provide as a match to the State Homeowners Tax Credit.
 - This goes directly to the equity vs equality issue. All property tax owners might receive equally lower rates but the result is not equity - there will be a disparate effect on people of color in Takoma Park.



Council Priorities

- Besides items listed in this presentation, many departments will be working on other elements listed in the Council Priorities documents
- \$20,000 in the Council's Legislative budget



Budget Schedule

- Wednesday, April 5 – City Manager’s Presentation
- Thursday, April 6, Budget Open House
- **Wednesday, April 12 – Public Hearing**
- Monday, April 17 – Budget Work Session on Capital Budget
- Monday, April 24 – Budget Work Session on Programs Advancing Council Goals
- **Wednesday, April 26 – Public Hearing** on Constant Yield Tax Rate and on Proposed Budget
- Monday, May 1 – Budget Work Session on Departmental and Non-Departmental Budgets; Budget Reconciliation Discussion
- Wednesday, May 3 – Final Budget Reconciliation
- Wednesday, May 10 – First Reading of Budget Ordinances
- Wednesday, May 17 – Second Reading of Budget Ordinances



Fiscal Year 2018 Proposed Budget Presentation

QUESTIONS?

Suzanne Ludlow

City Manager

SuzanneL@takomaparkmd.gov

