



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – March 7, 2018

Agenda Item 1

Voting Session

Resolution Adopting the Council Priorities

Recommended Council Action

Consider adopting the Resolution

Context with Key Issues

The Council Priorities were established based on discussions during the Council's Annual Retreat held on January 19 and 25 and during two work sessions held on February 7 and February 28. In general, the priorities represent the strategic direction the Council intends to move the City over the course of its three-year term. At a minimum, the Council will revisit the priorities document at its next two retreats, tentatively scheduled for January 2019 and January 2020, and make changes or adjustments as necessary.

The priority document lists the broad priority categories – as well as goals, strategies, desired outcomes, and major projects and initiatives associated with each priority. The priority categories include:

- A Livable Community for All
- Fiscally Sustainable Government
- Environmentally Sustainable Community
- Engaged, Responsive, Service-Oriented Government
- Community Development for an Improved and Equitable Quality of Life

At their February 28 meeting, the Council engaged in an exercise where they indicated which priorities should be focused on and emphasized in the upcoming fiscal year (FY19). The prioritized items include:

- Plan and prepare for development in the City and region while maintaining the special character and diversity of Takoma Park.
- Identify policing priorities and explore options for enhanced police/community relations.
- Ensure we have a range of safe, quality, and stable housing options that are affordable for residents of varying incomes and all races and ethnicities.
- Further efforts related to racial equity.
- Identify programming needs in the community and develop approaches to meet those needs, emphasizing youth, families, seniors, and our more vulnerable residents, such as those with lower incomes, immigrants, and people with developmental disabilities.
- Increase funding from County and State to address tax duplication and other City needs.

Council Priority

A Livable Community for All; Fiscally Sustainable Government; Environmentally Sustainable Community; Engaged, Responsive, Service-Oriented Government; Community Development for an Improved and Equitable Quality of Life

Environmental Impact of Action

The Council Priorities could result in greener building and development within the City, increased use of renewable energy, and maintenance/growth of the tree canopy, among other possibilities.

Fiscal Impact of Action

To be determined during budget process.

Racial Equity Impact of Action

The Council Priorities specifically include a goal to further the City's efforts related to racial equity by:

- Developing a strategy to address racial equity issues, including how we organize, institutionalize, and operationalize the racial equity framework; exploring a possible task force on racial equity.
- Providing racial equity training to members of Council-appointed committees and other residents; seeking grant funding for training.
- Conducting a racial equity survey among City staff.

This goal was identified by the Council as a focus area to be emphasized in the upcoming fiscal year (FY19).

Attachments and Links

- Resolution Adopting the Council Priorities
- Council Priorities – for adoption March 2018

Introduced by:

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

RESOLUTION 2018-

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE COUNCIL PRIORITIES

WHEREAS, the Takoma Park City Council is charged with setting policy, approving the budget and pursuing legislative changes in the best interests of the Takoma Park community; and

WHEREAS, the Council holds an annual “Council Retreat” in advance of the budget preparation process in order to discuss its policy and budget priorities for the upcoming fiscal year and beyond; and

WHEREAS, this year’s retreat took place over two evenings on January 19 and 25; and

WHEREAS, the Council further discussed its priorities at Council Meetings on February 7 and 28; and

WHEREAS, the Council Priorities established inform the development of the City Manager’s Recommended Budget and, more generally, indicate the strategic direction the Council intends to move the City during its term; and

WHEREAS, at their February 28 meeting, the Council engaged in an exercise where they indicated which priorities should be focused on and emphasized in the upcoming fiscal year (Fiscal Year 2019); and

WHEREAS, these prioritized items include:

- Plan and prepare for development in the City and region while maintaining the special character and diversity of Takoma Park.
- Identify policing priorities and explore options for enhanced police/community relations.
- Ensure we have a range of safe, quality, and stable housing options that are affordable for residents of varying incomes and all races and ethnicities.
- Further efforts related to racial equity.
- Identify programming needs in the community and develop approaches to meet those needs, emphasizing youth, families, seniors, and our more vulnerable residents, such as those with lower incomes, immigrants, and people with developmental disabilities.
- Increase funding from County and State to address tax duplication and other City needs.

WHEREAS, at a minimum, the Council will revisit the priorities document at its next two retreats, tentatively scheduled for January 2019 and January 2020, and make changes or adjustments as necessary; and

WHEREAS, many of the priorities and goals described in the Council Priorities document will endure beyond calendar year 2018 and Fiscal Year 2019, though strategies described in this resolution may change more quickly based on opportunities that may arise to achieve those goals.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Takoma Park formally adopts the Council Priorities.

**ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND,
THIS 7th DAY OF MARCH, 2018.**

Attest:

Jessie Carpenter, CMC
City Clerk

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A Livable Community For All

Goal	Strategy	Desired Outcome	Achieved
Identify programming needs in the community and develop approaches to meet those needs, emphasizing youth, families, seniors, and our more vulnerable residents, such as those with lower incomes, immigrants, and people with developmental disabilities.	Utilize resident survey, staff and committee reports, and other sources to determine where there may be existing gaps in program offerings; develop programs to close gaps. (B/P)	Expanded or improved programming tailored to residents who need them the most or who are accessing them the least.	
Ensure we have a range of safe, quality, and stable housing options that are affordable for residents of varying incomes and all races and ethnicities.	Consider draft Strategic Plan related to housing and economic development and adopt strategies to address housing and economic development challenges and opportunities; develop implementation plans. (P/B)	Meet the current and future housing needs of the community to ensure affordable housing options for residents of varying incomes levels and of all races and ethnicities.	
	Develop and implement plan of action for Housing Reserve Fund, including request for contributions from the County and State. (P)		
	Develop incentives and possible new enforcement and other measures for landlords to improve living conditions for tenants. (P/B)	Improved living conditions for renters.	
	Facilitate improved communication among City, landlords, and tenants; build on existing outreach and tenant education efforts. (B)		
Defend status as a Sanctuary City and continue to be a welcoming and inclusive community for all residents.	Continue advocacy efforts on behalf of immigrants, including connecting those in need of assistance to appropriate area organizations. (P/B)	Remain a strong Sanctuary City.	

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Further efforts related to racial equity.	Develop strategy to address racial equity issues, including how we organize, institutionalize, and operationalize the racial equity framework; explore possible task force on racial equity. (P/B)	Progress toward a more racially equitable community and government.	
	Provide racial equity training to members of Council-appointed committees and other residents; seek grant funding for training. (B)		
	Conduct racial equity survey among City staff members. (P)		
Major projects, initiatives and ongoing activities			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy for City residents with respect to MCPS site-selection and Piney Branch facility study and pool • Sidewalks – retrofit existing sidewalks to meet ADA requirements; sidewalk design improvements • Public Land and Open Space Management Plan – development of plan and implementation of agreed upon recommendations • Public Transit/Bike/Pedestrian Safety projects – including continuation of the Safe Routes to School Program and bike improvements • Cultural Plan – implementation of recommendations included in FY16 Update 			


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Fiscally Sustainable Government

Goal	Strategy	Desired Outcome	Achieved
Increase funding from County and State to address tax duplication and other City needs.	Councilmember advocacy and lobbying activities; improve coordination of efforts between staff and Councilmembers. (P)	Increased funding from County and State to address tax duplication and other City needs.	
	Partner with other Montgomery County municipalities to pressure County and General Assembly. (P)		
	Acquire grant funding to help offset costs for library renovations. (P/B)		
Adopt financial policy to determine the appropriate level of designated reserves.	Review best practices and benchmarks and determine reserve level suitable for City. (P)	Formally establish reserve levels.	
Minimize adverse impacts of changes to the federal tax system.	Assess implications of changes to federal tax system and develop tactics to help mitigate adverse impacts. (P/B)	Minimize adverse impacts of changes to the federal tax system.	
Adopt sustainable investment and banking policy and practices.	Identify and work with consultant to determine tolerance levels and next steps in adopting sustainable investment and banking policies and practices. (P/B)	Work to align the City's banking and investments with values of social responsibility.	
Major projects, initiatives and ongoing activities			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modify budget document in accordance with GFOA standards of excellence in communicating about budget process • Determine how to address Personal Property Tax issues for businesses 			

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 <h1>Environmentally Sustainable Community</h1>			
Goal	Strategy	Desired Outcome	Achieved
Continue to be a leader in community sustainability.	Continue program and policy efforts for more efficient energy use, especially for renters and multi-family buildings, businesses, and City operations. (P/B)	Improved energy efficiency City-wide; increasingly sustainable City operations and building; increased use of renewables and offsets.	
	Increase use of renewable energy (especially solar) throughout the City; offer bulk buy of solar and/or wind power to residents; consider incentives for multifamily buildings and new buildings; continue efforts related to electric vehicle use. (P/B)		
	Consider draft Strategic Plan related to housing and economic development and adopt strategies to promote and ensure sustainable development. (P/B)		
Preserve and grow tree canopy.	Establish and support tree and tree canopy goals through programs and education; identify opportunities for tree retention, maintenance, and growth. (B)	Greater maintenance of mature trees; more plantings on City and private property.	
	Coordinate efforts to review tree ordinance with tree canopy goals to ensure changes to the tree ordinance advance and do not adversely impact tree canopy goals. (P)		

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Major projects, initiatives and ongoing activities

- Enforcement, education, and outreach related to City codes – polystyrene ban; Safe Grow; multifamily and business recycling; plastic bag ban; snow clearing
- Continue work toward achievement of all Green Team priorities.
- Continue implementation of Sustainable Energy Action Plan
- Flower Avenue Green Street
- Implement additional Sustainable Maryland Certified goals
- Continue to implement Council authorized Smart Energy Community Goals for energy reduction and green power
- Implement stormwater management projects to meet State and Federal mandates for 2017 and 2025
- Review stormwater management fee structure; review Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) calculation based on impervious surface; consider incentives for stormwater improvements on private property

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 Engaged, Responsive, Service-oriented Government			
Goal	Strategy	Desired Outcome	Achieved
Identify policing priorities and explore options for enhanced police/community relations.	In addition to resident survey, hold community meetings and conversations to learn more about perceptions of police relations with the public; develop and implement steps that the Police Department can take to improve community relations. (P)	Improve relationships between the police department and community measured by resident survey responses and through other means.	
	Develop and implement plan of action to enter into mutual aid agreements. (P)	Mutual aid agreements in place with District of Columbia and Prince George’s County to enhance coordination among police departments.	
Improve communications with residents, especially two-way online and social media communication.	Regularly update project directory, staff and Councilmember blogs on City website, promote My TkPk application. (P)	Information about issues and programs more easily accessible for all residents.	
	Explore ways in addition to Newsletter to get information to a broader array of residents; increase in non-English communications. (B)		
	Develop innovative graphic representations of key issues to help communicate key issues to residents and policymakers in Rockville and Annapolis; develop outreach on City programs including property tax assistance and others. (B)		

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	<p>Improve notification system for utility and other work in the right-of-way, including work by City contractors and staff, and explore development of accountability measures to address deficient notification and to strengthen monitoring of utility and contractor work. (P)</p>	<p>Better communication with residents about utility and other work that may impact them.</p>	
	<p>Conduct resident survey. (B)</p>	<p>Data that can be used to inform decision-making.</p>	
<p>Improve policies and processes related to the tree ordinance; traffic calming; sidewalk requests, repair and maintenance; and residential/commercial boundary conflicts.</p>	<p>Review existing tree ordinance, and develop and implement improvements. (P/B)</p>	<p>More user-friendly and easy to understand tree ordinance.</p>	
	<p>Consider existing traffic calming policies and processes, develop and implement recommendations for improvements. (P/B)</p>	<p>Improved and more equitable policy and processes related to traffic calming.</p>	
	<p>Consider existing policies and processes related to sidewalk requests, repair, and maintenance, develop and implement recommendations for improvements. (P/B)</p>	<p>Improved and more equitable policy and processes related to sidewalk requests, maintenance and repair.</p>	
	<p>Consider existing issues and code enforcement strategies related to the intersection of commercial and residential areas; develop and implement recommendations for improvements. (P/B)</p>	<p>Improved policy and processes related to residential/commercial boundary conflicts.</p>	
<p>Improve and formalize systems for Council-appointed committees and external committees on which Councilmembers serve (e.g. MWCOG).</p>	<p>Review existing structure, appointment processes, and practices for Council-appointed committees, and make changes to increase efficiency and effectiveness and attract new members; explore innovative ways to engage residents who tend to be harder to reach. (P/B)</p>	<p>Diverse, engaged, productive, and rewarding committee membership.</p>	

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	<p>Develop a formal plan and procedures for how Council works with and represents the City on outside committees and communicates back to the full Council. (P)</p>	<p>Better understanding of individual Councilmember’s roles; improved communication amongst Council</p>	
<h3>Major projects, initiatives and ongoing activities</h3>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement changes within the Police Department consistent with Council’s July 2017 resolution • Police Department renovation – concept design • Continue to serve as liaison between utility companies and community to improve communication and understanding of project impacts • IT Projects – IT Switches, Next Generation Firewall • Planning for moving City elections to coincide with state and federal elections 			

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 Community Development for an Improved & Equitable Quality of Life			
Goal	Strategy	Desired Outcome	Achieved
Plan and prepare for development in the City and region while maintaining the special character and diversity of Takoma Park.	Consider draft Strategic Plan related to housing and economic development and adopt strategies to address housing and economic development challenges and opportunities; develop implementation plans. (P/B)	Implementation plans developed and adopted to plan and prepare for development and maintain the special character and diversity of Takoma Park.	
	Optimize and improve coordination with the Takoma/Langley Crossroads Development Authority and the Old Town Business Association to bolster their work in promoting thriving businesses and commercial districts. (P/B)	Improved coordination with business associations in order to help make them more effective; thriving local businesses.	
	Provide direct outreach and support for local businesses. (B)		
Major projects, initiatives and ongoing activities			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Takoma Junction redevelopment • Purple Line preparation • John Nevins Andrews School – advocate for appropriate reuse of property • Washington-McLaughlin property • Library renovation and expansion, including ADA improvements • Economic development along New Hampshire Avenue • Redevelopment of Takoma Park Recreation Center • Contracts for economic development services in Old Takoma and Takoma Langley Crossroads business districts • Washington Adventist Hospital – advocate for campus that continues to meet the needs of the community • Ethan Allen Streetscape projects • Montgomery College construction projects, including new Math and Science Building 			