



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – September 12, 2018 Agenda Item 1 & 7

Public Hearing and Work Session

Public Hearing on Request for Traffic Calming on the 700 block of Houston Avenue
Council Work Session Discussion of Traffic Calming Request

Recommended Council Action

Receive public comments and discuss the request.

Context with Key Issues

Residents of the 700 block of Houston Avenue have petitioned to have traffic calming installed on the block, to include changing the block to one-way and installing a speed hump. The petition was found to have a sufficient number of signatures for the residents to move forward with a community meeting, which was held on June 19, 2018. Subsequently, a public hearing was scheduled.

Staff mailed notice of the public hearing to residents on Houston Avenue and Kennebec Avenue, inviting them to attend the public hearing or send written comments expressing their view on the proposal. Kennebec Avenue was included in the mailing because some residents there expressed concern about the impact the proposed traffic calming would have on their street.

In the event the Council wishes to move forward, a vote on a two-reading ordinance is tentatively scheduled in October.

Council Priority

Livable Community

Environmental Considerations

Traffic calming measures can reduce the speed of traffic on a street, thereby providing a safer street for other drivers, bicyclists or pedestrians. There is some evidence that when vehicles quickly stop before and rapidly speed up after a speed hump, more exhaust fumes are generated from their vehicle, thereby adding to air pollution.

Fiscal Considerations

The cost per speed hump is approximately \$1,500. The cost to install signs is approximately \$300 each.

Racial Equity Considerations

We do not believe that the installation of this traffic calming will disproportionately impact any particular group. However, since the current process to request traffic calming on a block requires collection of signatures from two-thirds of the households on the block and the block on either side, arranging for a community meeting, and coordination with City staff, it can be a barrier for some residents to initiate the process.

Prepared by: Daryl Braithwaite, Public Works Director
Approved by: Suzanne R. Ludlow, City Manager

Posted 2018-09-07

For neighborhoods with apartment buildings, it may not be practical for residents to obtain signatures of two-thirds of the household units, potentially resulting in fewer traffic calming installations in neighborhoods with a large number of tenants, who are more likely to be people of color.

Attachments and Links

Public Hearing Notice

Copy of the submitted petition



**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**Installation of Traffic Calming
700 block of Houston Avenue**

**Wednesday, September 12, 2018
7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Auditorium
7500 Maple Avenue**

Residents on Houston Avenue have petitioned to make the 700 block of Houston Avenue one way and/or to have a speed hump installed on the 700 block.

The City Council will hold a public hearing on the request on Wednesday, September 12, 2018. Interested residents are encouraged to attend the public hearing and sign up to speak. Written comments may also be sent to the City Clerk (Clerk@takomaparkmd.gov). All written comments received will be added to the hearing record.

Attest:

Jessie Carpenter, CMC
City Clerk

703 Houston Avenue

ADAM ORANCHAK

Print Name

Karla Oranchak

Print Name

Zorica T. Whalen

Print Name

Signature

Signature

Signature

704 Houston Avenue

Stan Simpson

Print Name

Maria Simpson

Print Name

Signature

Signature

705 Houston Avenue

Theodore A. Emery

Print Name

Theodore A. Emery

Print Name

Audie Carnish Emery

Signature

Audie Carnish Emery

Signature

706 Houston Avenue

Douglas N. Shaffer

Print Name

N/A

Print Name

Signature

Signature

707 Houston Avenue

Donald Pinkston
Print Name

[Signature]
Signature

Alexandra Reyes-Pinkston
Print Name

Alexandra Reyes-Pinkston
Signature

708 Houston Avenue

Karim Whalen
Print Name

[Signature]
Signature

Ossana Wolff
Print Name

Ossana Wolff
Signature

709 Houston Avenue

Rebecca H. Rhodes
Print Name

[Signature]
Signature

Fede S. Camara
Print Name

FS Camara
Signature