



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – September 12, 2018 Agenda Item 6

Voting Item

Resolution Appointing a Legal Services Review Advisory Group

Recommended Council Action

Adopt the Resolution

Context with Key Issues

The Council held a work session on July 18, 2018 to discuss the formation of a Legal Services Review Advisory Group. Consistent with the attached charter, the primary objective of the Legal Services Review Advisory Group would be to 1) review and document the City's legal service needs currently and what we expect in the near future, the manner in which those needs are currently being met, advantages and disadvantages of the existing structure and processes, and 2) provide recommendations to the City Council for how to meet the City's legal service needs in the future.

If adopted, the attached Resolution would appoint Rizwan Qureshi (former Councilmember), Anne Hollander (Ward 5 resident), Eli R. Koppel (Ward 2 resident), and Ellen M. Zavian (Ward 3 resident) to serve on the Legal Services Review Advisory Group.

Council Priority

Fiscally Sustainable Government

Environmental Considerations

N/A – would depend on specific legal issues

Fiscal Considerations

There may be some incidental expenses associated with the work of the group, such as copying and printing costs, refreshments for meetings, etc.

For the past several years, the City has spent approximately \$155,000-\$175,000 per year on contracted legal services for the City Attorney. We also utilize the services of labor counsel and a development attorney, which we pay on an hourly basis.

Racial Equity Considerations

We are unable to determine whether any group would be disproportionately impacted if Council adopted the attached Resolution appointing members to the Legal Services Review Advisory Group.

Attachments and Links

- Draft Resolution Providing for Appointment of Members to the Legal Services Review Advisory Group
- Legal Services Review Advisory Group – Charter

Introduced by:

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

Resolution No. 2018-

**Resolution Providing for Appointment of Members to
the Legal Services Review Advisory Group**

WHEREAS, in recent years, the City has experienced an increased need for legal services, as well as a broader range of legal expertise than in the past; and

WHEREAS, at their July 18, 2018 work session, the Council discussed and decided to form an advisory group to evaluate legal needs and how they might best be met; and

WHEREAS, the primary objectives of the Legal Services Review Advisory Group would be to 1) review and document the City's legal service needs currently and what we expect in the near future, the manner in which those needs are currently being met, advantages and disadvantages of the existing structure and processes, and 2) provide recommendations to the City Council for how to meet the City's legal service needs in the future; and

WHEREAS, the group is to be composed of a former Councilmember with experience working with the City Attorney; three residents, appointed by the Council, who have a demonstrated background in one or more of the following areas: the field of law, familiarity with at least one area of the City's legal needs (contracts, finance, personnel, land use and development, etc.), and/or experience serving on a Council committee; and a staff liaison; and

WHEREAS, after reviewing the applications received, the City Council has selected the following individuals for appointment to the Legal Services Review Advisory Group: Rizwan Qureshi, Anne Hollander, Eli R. Koppel, and Ellen M. Zavian.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Takoma Park, Maryland, hereby appoints the following individuals to serve on the Legal Services Review Advisory Group:

Rizwan Qureshi	Former City Councilmember
Anne Hollander	Resident, Ward 5
Eli R. Koppel	Resident, Ward 2
Ellen M. Zavian	Resident, Ward 3

Adopted this ____ day of September, 2018.