



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – October 3, 2018 Agenda Item 8

Work Session

Review of Housing Component of Draft Housing and Economic Development Strategic Plan

Recommended Council Action

None – discussion only

Context with Key Issues

This is the first in a series of Work Sessions that have been scheduled to provide the City Council with an opportunity to revisit the recommendations included in the preliminary Housing and Economic Development Strategic Plan (DRAFT October 15, 2017). The primary focus of this and the upcoming October 17 discussion is on the housing components of the draft Strategic Plan.

The preliminary recommendations identified in the draft Strategic Plan are grouped into six distinct areas of focus: Increased Economic Development Capacity; Business Attraction; Business Retention and Expansion; Entrepreneurship and Small Business; Workforce Development; and the Preservation and Expansion of Housing Options. Included within each of these focus areas are recommendations designed to streamline existing programs, catalyze investment, and/or leverage resources to advance the Council's housing and economic development goals. The recommendations also address the need to formalize relationships with nearby jurisdictions, ensure affordable and stable housing options, and provide programming to make the City more welcoming to both residents and the business community.

During the upcoming Work Sessions, staff will provide an overview of the housing recommendations included in the draft plan; discuss possible revisions and offer a preliminary analysis of the cost and difficulty of their implementation. The Council will be asked to identify its priorities and specific recommendations it would like to pursue. The guidance provided during this discussion will be used to refine the recommendations and develop a more specific implementation plan and schedule which will be presented to the Council for consideration. The strategic plan and implementation plan will be finalized and presented to the Council for adoption later this winter.

Council Priority

- "A Livable Community for All" with the goal of ensuring that a range of safe, quality, and stable housing options are available for residents of varying incomes.
- "Community Development for an Improved and Equitable Quality of Life" with the goal of planning and preparing for development in the City and region which maintains the special character and diversity of Takoma Park.

Environmental Considerations

We believe the recommendations included in the draft Strategic Plan, once finalized and adopted by the Council, will identify opportunities for improving the environment, including saving energy and improving water quality as part of redevelopment, and minimizing transportation distances to goods and services.

Fiscal Considerations

The initial cost of working on these efforts could be substantial for the City, including additional personnel, contracts for services and use of funds from the Housing Reserve to leverage projects. In the long run, these efforts are needed to build a strong economic base for Takoma Park which in turn will provide funds for the City services needed for an improved and equitable quality of life in the community.

Racial Equity Considerations

We believe the recommendations included in the draft Strategic Plan, once finalized and adopted by the Council, will identify opportunities that will positively impact people of color, including immigrants and refugees.

Attachments and Links

- [Project Page: Housing and Economic Development Strategic Plan](#)
- [Strategic Plan \(October 15, 2017 DRAFT\)](#)
- [Housing Overview Presentation \(Mullin & Loneragan, February 26, 2018\)](#)