



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – October 17, 2018 Agenda Item 3

Work Session

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

Recommended Council Action

None – discussion only

Context with Key Issues

A continuation of the City Council's October 3 work session discussion of the preliminary Housing and Economic Development Strategic Plan (DRAFT October 15, 2017), the primary focus of this discussion is the goals and priorities of the draft Strategic Plan as they relate to housing.

The City Council's foundational goal of being a "Livable Community for All," as identified in its FY19 Priorities, serves as the basis for the plan. A livable community is defined in the draft plan as one that protects the rights of all residents; provides opportunities to all regardless of age, race, ethnicity, citizenship status, or ability; preserves and enhances the physical characteristics of the community's residential and commercial neighborhoods; and is sustainable, accessible, and affordable across all socioeconomic groups. The recommendations included in the draft focus on ways the City can work towards that goal and ensure that a range of safe, quality, affordable and stable housing options are available for current and future residents of varying incomes throughout the community.

During the work session, staff will note the background research, data, and public input that led to the draft recommendations. The discussion with Council will focus on the more significant recommendations. Staff will provide their view of the recommendations and present updated information where appropriate. The purpose of the discussion is to clarify the Council's housing goals and refine the recommendations, which can then be developed into a more specific implementation plan and schedule. It should be noted that many of the draft Strategic Plan's recommendations serve to advance both housing and economic development goals of the City. 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 \(Mullin & Lonergan, February 26, 2018\)](#)
- [Strategic Plan: Overview of Housing Recommendations \(October 3, 2018\)](#)