



## Takoma Park City Council Meeting – October 24, 2018 Agenda Item 8

### **Work Session**

Discussion of Composition of the Takoma Park Youth Council

### **Recommended Council Action**

Hold discussion.

### **Context with Key Issues**

The City Council established the Takoma Park Youth Council:

- To provide an opportunity for the youth of Takoma Park to acquire a greater knowledge of and appreciation for local government through active participation in the system.
- To help the City Council to address problems and accomplish the goals of this community by working directly with the representatives of youth.
- To serve the youth of Takoma Park by:
  - informing the Takoma Park municipal government of the needs and wishes of youth;
  - planning and implementing social, educational, cultural and recreational activities for the youth;
  - working with the Mayor, City Council, City department heads, schools, civic clubs and service organizations to provide service and leadership opportunities for the youth of the City; and,
  - helping to instill a feeling of positive self-worth and esteem, teaching respect for the rights of others, and promoting community pride.

As originally designed, the Youth Council is to be comprised of nine members from grades 7 through 12, representing a cross-section of the City's youth. At least one member, but no more than two, will be appointed from each ward. Three members will be appointed at large.

This work session has been scheduled to enable the Council to consider whether the composition of the Youth Council should be changed.

A substitute appointment resolution is attached. It takes racial equity and the under-representation of Wards 4, 5, and 6 into consideration and would revise the number of members to be appointed to 9-11.

### **Council Priority**

A Livable Community for All – Expand Youth Programming and Engage Youth in Civic Activities

### **Environmental Considerations**

N/A

### **Fiscal Considerations**

We anticipate that Youth Council activities may incur some costs but expect that it would be under \$1,000.

### **Racial Equity Considerations**

The substitute resolution and change in the composition of the Youth Council will emphasize recruitment from traditionally under-represented Wards 4, 5, and 6 and allow the Council more flexibility to appoint a cross-section of young people. Additionally, it is hoped that the Youth Council will provide an opportunity for young people of color to become actively involved with City government.

### **Attachments and Links**

- Draft Resolution for Discussion
- [Resolution 2017-50](#)
- [Youth Council Information Page](#)

Introduced by:

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND**

**RESOLUTION 2018-  
APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE 2018-2019 YOUTH COUNCIL  
AND REVISING THE COMPOSITION OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL  
BY AMENDING RESOLUTION 2017-50**

WHEREAS, on September 20, 2017, the City Council adopted Resolution 2017-50 to establish the Takoma Park Youth Council; and

WHEREAS, the nine-member Youth Council serves the youth of Takoma Park by: 1) informing the City government of the needs and wishes of youth, 2) planning and implementing social, educational, cultural and recreational activities for the youth; 3) working with the Mayor, City Council, City department heads, schools, civic clubs and service organizations to provide service and leadership opportunities for the youth of the City; and, 4) helping to instill a feeling of positive self-worth and esteem, teaching respect for the rights of others, and promoting community pride; and

WHEREAS, application for membership in the Youth Council is open to Takoma Park residents in grades seven to 12; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution 2017-50, Youth Council members are to represent a cross-section of the City's youth. At least one member, but not more than two, shall be appointed from each ward and three members shall be appointed at large; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that selection of members for appointment by ward, and limiting membership to no more than two from any one ward, can conflict with efforts to have the members represent a cross-section of the City's youth; and

WHEREAS, the City Council in its 2018 Priorities committed to improving systems for Council-appointed committees, including working to ensure diversity among committee members; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has committed to applying a racial equity lens in a systematic way in its decision-making processes with the goal of continuing to build an inclusive, equitable community and ensure a vibrant and healthy community for all Takoma Park residents pursuant to Resolution 2017-28; and

WHEREAS, historically representation on Council appointed committees has been low for Wards 4, 5, and 6; and

WHEREAS, Wards 4, 5, and 6 have a greater percentage of residents of color than other wards; and

WHEREAS, an amendment to Resolution 2017-50 is necessitated to allow the City Council to use its discretion in determining how many applicants may be appointed from a ward; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has reviewed the applications submitted for the 2018-2019 Youth Council and has selected xx applicants to serve on the Youth Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Section 3 of Resolution 2017-50 is amended as follows:

SECTION 3. As established in the Youth Council Charter, the Youth Council shall be comprised of 11 members from grades 7 through 12, representing a cross-section of the City's youth and to actively recruit and appoint members from traditionally under-represented Wards 4, 5, and 6. ~~At least one member, but not more than two, shall be appointed from each ward and three members shall be appointed at large.~~ One of the appointed Youth Council members in the 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade shall be designated by the City Council as the Leader of the Youth Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the following individuals are appointed to the Takoma Park Youth Council for a term that will expire on October 31, 2019:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.

Adopted this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2018.

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jessie Carpenter, CMC  
City Clerk