



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – November 14, 2018 Agenda Item 2

Presentation

Presentation and Discussion of Legislative Priorities

Recommended Council Action

Hear presentation and discuss priorities for the 2019 Legislative Session in Annapolis

Context with Key Issues

The City contracts with a legislative advocate, Public Policy Partners, to help advance the Council's priorities in the General Assembly. The legislative advocate promotes the City's interests in the General Assembly, identifies legislation of interest to monitor, provides information on the status and likelihood of passage, supports the City's efforts in having legislation adopted or amended, provides guidance to Council and staff in delivering effective testimony, and has a good knowledge of the General Assembly's leadership, legislators, committees, and staff.

Alice Wilkerson of Public Policy Partners will attend tonight's Council meeting to share perspectives about the outcome of recent elections, information about the upcoming Legislative Session, and participate in the Council's discussion of legislative priorities.

For reference during the discussion, the Council submitted the following Legislative Action Requests to the Maryland Municipal League in July 2018:

- To initiate or support legislation or sources of funding to maintain affordable housing in areas with rising property values and rents resulting from infrastructure improvements, transit projects such as the Purple Line, and redevelopment;
- To initiate or support legislation mandating coordination and cooperation between utilities, the State Highway Administration, and municipalities in order to minimize impact on residents and businesses resulting from infrastructure construction and repairs
- To initiate or support legislation that would provide additional opportunities to raise municipal revenues without increasing dependence on property taxes.

Council Priority

A Livable Community for All; Fiscally Sustainable Government; Environmentally Sustainable Community; Engaged, Responsive and Service Oriented Government; Community Development for an Improved and Equitable Quality of Life

Environmental Considerations

The City Council's established priorities related to environmental sustainability and recommendations of the Committee on the Environment inform the Council's consideration of legislative initiatives and in determining positions on various bills introduced in the General Assembly.

Fiscal Considerations

State legislation may have a positive or negative fiscal impact for the City. The Council can request legislation beneficial to the City and the Takoma Park community. The Council, staff, and legislative advocates monitor legislation to determine its fiscal impact.

Racial Equity Considerations

During the course of the session, there may be opportunities for the City to advocate for policies at the State level that are consistent with our commitment to address racial inequities.

Attachments and Links

- [State Legislative Advocate's Report on the 2018 Legislative Session](#)