



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – November 28, 2018 Agenda Item 3

Presentation:

Montgomery College Presentation on Math and Science Building

Recommended Council Action

None – Presentation and discussion only.

Context with Key Issues

Montgomery College has developed plans for the new Catherine and Isiah Leggett Math and Science Building on the Takoma Park/Silver Spring campus on Fenton Street, at the current site of Falcon Hall and Science South building. Montgomery College selected the firm, Smith Group JJR, to design the replacement math and science building on the Takoma Park/Silver Spring campus. The College has completed a four-month design charrette process with students, faculty, and the community, led by Smith Group and Link Strategic Partners and is preparing for the Montgomery County Mandatory Referral submission.

In 2002, the City, Montgomery College, Historic Takoma and Montgomery County entered into an agreement (Appendix A of the City Code) “to subject the activities of Montgomery College in the Historic Preservation District of the City to local control.”

Joining the Council will be Dr. Brad Stewart, Vice President and Provost of the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus and Susan Madden, Acting Chief of Staff. The presentation will be given by Michael Akin, President of LINK Strategic Partners, and Robert Bull, Principal of SmithGroup.

Council Priority

A Livable Community for All

Community Development for an Improved and Equitable Quality of Life

Environmental Considerations

The Montgomery College Math and Science Building will be designed with a holistic sustainable design strategy. This strategy will take into account balancing the need for efficient building systems, water use reduction, improved building envelope performance, storm water management, materials sourcing, and renewable energy production.

Fiscal Considerations

There is no fiscal impact of this action for the City of Takoma Park.

Racial Equity Considerations

The new Catherine and Isiah Leggett Math and Science Building, once completed, will have a positive impact on racial inequity providing improved access to the STEM field to persons of color. According to information published by the [PEW Research Center](#) in January 9, 2018, “Blacks and Hispanics are underrepresented in science, technology, engineering and math jobs, relative to their presence in the overall U.S. workforce, particularly among workers with a bachelor’s degree or higher.” Together, these two groups make up around a quarter of the overall US workforce but only 16% of those are employed in a STEM occupation. Over half (52%) of those with a STEM job say “a

major reason for this under representation is because “blacks and Hispanics are less likely to have access to quality education that prepares them for these fields.”

The Takoma Park campus of Montgomery College, with an enrollment of 7,165 students in Fall 2017 has a racially diverse student body as evidenced in the following table.

Montgomery College Enrollment – Fall 2017 Race of Students	Number of Enrolled Students	As Percentage of Total Enrollment
Asian	576	8.0%
Black	2,943	41.1%
Hispanic	1,627	22.7%
Multi-Race	173	2.4%
Native American & Pacific Island	30	0.4%
White	1,116	15.6%
Foreign and Unknown	700	9.8%
Total Students Enrolled	7,165	100.0%

The Takoma Park neighborhood where the Montgomery College campus is located, is bordered by Piney Branch Road, Philadelphia Avenue, Silver Spring and the District of Columbia, is 87.35-94.87% white.

Attachments and Links

[City of Takoma Park – Montgomery College Math and Science Building Project Page](#)
[Montgomery College - Catherine and Isiah Leggett Math and Science Building](#)