



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – July 24, 2019 Agenda Item 4

Voting Session

Resolution Authorizing Transmittal of Legislative Action Requests to the Maryland Municipal League for Consideration

Recommended Council Action

Consider and adopt the resolution.

Context with Key Issues

Member municipalities in the Maryland Municipal League (MML) may submit up to three Legislative Action Requests (LARs) each year for consideration as MML initiatives before the Maryland General Assembly. The deadline to submit for the 2020 Legislative Session is July 26.

The MML LAR process is as follows:

- Member municipalities submit up to three LAR forms on issues they would like to have addressed by legislation in the upcoming General Assembly Session;
- MML staff prepares background on each LAR for the Legislative Committee to consider;
- The Legislative Committee meets to discuss the requests and to consider the MML priority issues not resolved during the previous session;
- The MML membership votes on the recommended Legislative Committee priorities at the Fall Conference in October.

The City Council discussed options at a work session on July 10, 2019 and indicated support for making the following requests:

- 1) Legislation to grant municipal authority to implement property tax deferrals to certain categories of homeowners, such as elderly or low income residents. The deferred property tax would be due at the time the property is sold. This authority is currently granted to some counties.
- 2) Legislation to authorize a group of counties and/or municipalities to form or join a “community choice aggregator” to purchase or generate electricity from renewable sources for their residents. The City Council has championed such legislation in the past.
- 3) Legislation or sources of funding to assist rental property owners to eliminate environmental hazards in rental properties, including lead.

Council Priority

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

Environmental Considerations

Community choice aggregation of electricity would enable municipalities or counties to provide electricity generated from clean energy sources to residents. There would be environmental benefits to eliminating lead or other hazardous materials in residential rental properties.

Fiscal Considerations

Any of these legislative actions could result in additional work for staff, if enacted and adopted by the City. A deferred property tax program would result in a limited amount of revenue during the time of tax deferral.

Racial Equity Considerations

If enacted, and adopted by the City, a program to reduce environmental hazards in residential rental property would benefit more people of color as they are more likely to live in rental housing. However, eliminating environmental hazards benefits everyone.

Attachments and Links

Draft Resolution Authorizing Submittal of Legislative Action Requests

Introduced by:

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

RESOLUTION 2019-

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TRANSMITTAL OF
LEGISLATIVE ACTION REQUESTS
TO THE MARYLAND MUNICIPAL LEAGUE FOR CONSIDERATION**

WHEREAS, the Takoma Park City Council is charged with setting policy and pursuing legislative changes in the best interests of the Takoma Park community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Takoma Park is an active member of the Maryland Municipal League (MML); and

WHEREAS, MML pursues legislative changes to benefit Maryland municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the City Council is concerned about the impact of property taxes on elderly and low income residents who own their home; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has declared a climate emergency and recognizes the urgency of transitioning to renewable energy in electricity and heating/cooling; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes that environmental hazards such as lead and other contaminants still exist in some residential homes and apartments, particularly those most likely to house more vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has identified several requests to forward to MML for its consideration as legislative priorities for the League.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Takoma Park authorizes the City Manager to transmit to the Maryland Municipal League the Legislative Action Requests:

1. the Council urges the Maryland Municipal League to initiate or support legislation to grant municipal authority to implement property tax deferrals to certain categories of homeowners, such as elderly or low income residents; and
2. the Council urges the Maryland Municipal League to support legislation to authorize a group of counties or municipalities to form or join a “community choice aggregator” to purchase or generate electricity from renewable sources for their residents; and
3. the Council urges the Maryland Municipal League to support legislation or sources of funding to assist rental property owners to eliminate environmental hazards in rental properties, including lead.

Adopted this _____, 2019.