



## Takoma Park City Council Meeting – October 2, 2019 Agenda Item 1

### Voting Session

Single Reading Ordinance Approving a Contract for Services with City Innovate

### Recommended Council Action

Approve the Ordinance to authorize the City Manager to execute a contract with City Innovate

### Context with Key Issues

The City of Takoma Park has been accepted into the 2019/20 Startup in Residence (STIR) Network through City Innovate. City Innovate is a nonprofit dedicated to helping governments address their challenges through emerging technologies. They focus on creating frameworks of collaboration and exploring ways to improve procurement so that residents and government employees can experience the benefits of emerging technologies in their communities.

The City Innovate flagship program, Startup In Residence, aims to bridge the gap between the private and public sector. The program facilitates connections between startup and government teams to co-create technology solutions for government-defined challenges. Industry experts provide guidance to ensure that solutions created have maximum impact.

City Innovate supports a developing best practice called *challenged-based procurement* whereby a problem or challenge is identified and small technology firms respond with their proposals for solutions. The contract with City Innovate will provide technical assistance, access to their online project management platform, solicitation support, and training around the City's challenged-based procurement pilot.

The Economic Development Manager facilitated an interdepartmental "challenge sourcing" session to gather input on current economic development problems the City staff sees as difficult and in need of a technology solution. We expect to include three or four economic development challenges in the City's Startup In Residence pilot. Challenge topics include:

- Workforce Development
- Inclusive Community Engagement
- Internal File Sharing and Knowledge Transfer
- Business Identification and Familiarization

The City Council has recognized the need for additional economic development services in the City and the Economic Development Manager has identified a need for inclusive and creative approaches to challenges in the City of Takoma Park. The pilot Startup In Residence program through City Innovate gives City staff an opportunity to pursue creative economic development solutions in an efficient, structured, supported process.

While award of this contract obligates the City to pay up to \$10,000 to City Innovate for its role, there would be a separate contracting process if we decide to engage with one of the STIR

participants to provide a technology solution to the challenge topic we decide on. Regardless of whether we award a contract to one of the STIR participants as a result of our participation in the program, we expect that our engagement with City Innovate will help draw attention to the City as a viable location for technology start-ups.

### **Council Priority**

Advance Economic Development Efforts: Contract to support economic development services across the City.

### **Environmental Considerations**

City Innovate services will be provided via calls, emails, video chats, and webinars which will minimize the carbon footprint of this contract.

### **Fiscal Considerations**

The City will enter into a contract with City Innovate for economic development support services in the amount of \$10,000. The terms of the contract are from the effective date and can continue for a term of up to five years with options for renewal and early termination. As noted above, there would be a separate contracting process if we decide to engage with one of the STIR participants to provide a technology solution.

### **Racial Equity Considerations**

The contract with City Innovate will help source creative and inclusive solutions to economic development challenges in the City of Takoma Park. Each identified challenge includes a racial equity consideration that will highlight a need to create internal structures that establish and maintain fair and equitable governmental practices that support all residents.

### **Attachments and Links**

- City Innovate website: [www.cityinnovate.org](http://www.cityinnovate.org)
- Article on Challenged-based Procurement: <https://medium.com/code-for-canada/working-within-the-box-innovation-in-government-procurement-203ac70b9088>

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2019-**

**AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES WITH CITY INNOVATE.**

- WHEREAS, the City of Takoma Park, Maryland is interested in enhancing its economic development capacity for the benefit of all current and future Takoma Park residents and businesses; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Takoma Park has been accepted into the 2019/20 Startup in Residence (STIR) Network through City Innovate, a nonprofit dedicated to helping governments address their challenges through emerging technologies; and
- WHEREAS, the City Innovate flagship program, Startup In Residence, aims to bridge the gap between the private and public sector and facilitate connections between startup and government teams to co-create technology solutions for government-defined challenges; and
- WHEREAS, City Innovate supports a developing best practice called *challenged-based procurement* whereby a problem or challenge is identified and small technology firms respond with their proposals for solutions; and
- WHEREAS, the contract with City Innovate will provide technical assistance, access to their online project management platform, solicitation support, and training around the City's challenged-based procurement pilot.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND THAT:

- SECTION 1. The City Manager is hereby authorized to enter into a contract with City Innovate in an amount not to exceed TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$10,000.00) for economic development services.
- SECTION 2. The City Manager is further authorized to renew or cancel, as appropriate, such contract for up to one additional five-year term.
- SECTION 3. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately.

ADOPTED this 2nd day of October, 2019 by roll-call vote as follows:

AYE:

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: