



## Takoma Park City Council Meeting – November 6, 2019 Agenda Item 5

### **Presentation**

Presentation and Discussion of Legislative Priorities

### **Recommended Council Action**

Hear presentation and discuss priorities for the 2020 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 and 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 2019:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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; 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 2019 Legislative Session](#)
- Resolution 2018-5 Adopting 2018 Legislative Priorities
- Resolution 2018-64 Adopting 2019 Legislative Priorities

Introduced by: Councilmember Seamens

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND**

**RESOLUTION 2018-5  
ADOPTING 2018 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

WHEREAS, the City Council determines legislative priorities in advance of the General Assembly Session in order to focus the resources of Council, staff, and the City's Legislative Advocate; and

WHEREAS, the following legislative priorities have been identified for 2018:

- Additional funding (capital funds and/or bond bill funding) for the expansion and renovation of the Takoma Park Maryland Library
- Support for State Highway improvements to New Hampshire Avenue (MD 650)
- SHA cooperation with the City of Takoma Park on reconfiguring Takoma Junction (MD 410 and MD 195) while recognizing that the roads run through a historic district; and
- Restoration of Highway User Revenue (HUR) to the level from before the Recession
- Assistance with impacts on businesses and housing affordability from Purple Line construction
- School construction funding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND THAT the City's legislative advocacy in 2018 will focus on the listed priorities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT establishment of these legislative priorities does not limit the City's advocacy in support of or opposition to legislation that conforms to positions the Council has taken in the past or new positions to be taken by adoption of a Council resolution.

Adopted by the Council of the City of Takoma Park this 17th day of January, 2018.

Attest:

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Jessie Carpenter, CMC  
City Clerk

Introduced by: Councilmember Kostiuk

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND**

**RESOLUTION 2018-64  
ADOPTING 2019 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

WHEREAS, the City Council determines state legislative priorities in advance of the General Assembly Session in order to focus the resources of Council, staff, and the City's legislative advocate; and

WHEREAS, the following legislative priorities have been identified for 2019:

- Support for Redevelopment of New Hampshire Avenue (MD 650)
- Bond bill funding for the expansion and renovation of the Takoma Park Maryland Library
- Legislation prohibiting the Maryland Department of Transportation from spending any funds for the construction of Maryland Route 410 through the City of Takoma Park that would involve the addition of a new through lane for motor vehicles
- Protection of small businesses and housing affordability during and after Purple Line construction
- Legislation mandating coordination and cooperation between utilities, the State Highway Administration, and municipalities in order to minimize impacts on residents and businesses resulting from infrastructure construction and repairs
- Support for expanded opportunities for municipalities to raise revenues without increasing dependence on property taxes
- Support for building community resiliency and mitigating the impacts of climate change
- Montgomery County Public School construction funding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND THAT the City's state legislative advocacy in 2019 will focus on the priorities listed above.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT establishment of these legislative priorities does not limit the City's advocacy in support of or opposition to legislation based on conformance with positions the Council has taken in the past or new positions to be taken by adoption of a Council resolution.

Adopted by the Council of the City of Takoma Park this 5th day of December, 2018.

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