



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – February 5, 2020 Agenda Item 3

Work Session

Old Takoma Business Association Request to Close Laurel Avenue on April 25 and June 12 for Events

Recommended Council Action

Consider the request.

Context with Key Issues

The Old Takoma Business Association is requesting the closure of Laurel Avenue for two events this spring:

Saturday, April 25, 2020; 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (9:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m. with set up and breakdown)

Event: Art Hop

Event Description: Annual weekend of art when we transform Takoma into a lively arts district showcasing the work of local artists inside the shops and restaurants of Takoma and activate the streets with art, dancing and music.

In street: Artist booths (tents) will be placed in the street and wine tastings.

Friday, June 12, 2020; 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (4:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. with set up and breakdown)

Event: Takoma Pride Street Party

Event Description: The Takoma Pride Street Party is a new event to celebrate our LGBTQ residents and neighbors and to express Takoma Park values while highlighting the unique locally owned, independent businesses in the Takoma Park commercial district. It will be an evening of entertainment, food, drink, education and celebration.

In street: Music, food and beer and wine offered in street.

For June 12, OTBA requests to paint rainbow crosswalks on both sides of Laurel Avenue and Carroll Avenue crosswalks adjacent to Laurel. (See the map on the attached email.) The Carroll Avenue crosswalks are not under the City's jurisdiction. The Public Works Director has no objection to the crosswalk painting for Laurel Avenue.

Please see attached map for locations. OTBA would use commercial chalk paints (or other that City recommends) that do not last long and has agreed to work with City to return to white crosswalks after an agreed period of time.

Council Priority

This event supports the City's economic development priorities by helping to retain and strengthen small locally owned businesses.

Environmental Considerations

The event will adhere to all Council approved environmental and sustainability requirements.

Fiscal Considerations

The closure of Laurel Avenue will not have a significant fiscal impact. The street is closed weekly on Sundays for the Takoma Park Farmers Market. These additional closings are desired to boost the economic health of the larger area, as well as of artists and businesses directly involved in the events.

Racial Equity Considerations

Laurel Avenue and the Old Town area borders Ward 1 (approximately 12% Black or African American), Ward 3 (approximately 21% Black or African American), and Ward 4 in the District of Columbia (approximately 54.3% Black or African American). Attendees at events in Old Town are drawn from a broader area as well.

Attachments and Links

- Email from Laura Barclay, Executive Director of the Old Takoma Business Association
- Letter of Understanding between the Takoma Park SDA Church and the Old Takoma Business Association
- Draft resolution



Jessie Carpenter <jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov>

Fwd: Request to Close Laurel Avenue

Samira Cook Gaines <samiraCG@takomaparkmd.gov>
To: Jessie Carpenter <jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov>

Wed, Jan 8, 2020 at 6:10 PM

Hi Jessie,

Laura is requesting 2 street closures this year. Please let me know what additional information is needed.

Thanks,
~Samira

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Laura Barclay** <laura@mainstreettakoma.org>
Date: Fri, Jan 3, 2020 at 1:48 PM
Subject: Request to Close Laurel Avenue
To: Samira Cook Gaines <samiraCG@takomaparkmd.gov>

Hi Samira -

I would like to make the request to close Laurel Avenue for the following two Old Takoma Business Association Events in 2020. I will confirm with the church of our plan and we will commit to not hosting any amplified music during church service hours. In addition, I will work with businesses on the block to prepare them and engage them to maximize their exposure to visitors.

Dates and Times for Proposed Closures:

Saturday, April 25, 2020; 11:00am - 5:00pm (9:00am-6:00pm with set up and breakdown)

Event: Art Hop

Event Description: Annual weekend of art when we transform Takoma into a lively arts district showcasing the work of local artists inside the shops and restaurants of Takoma and activate the streets with art, dancing and music.

In street: Artist booths (tents) will be placed in the street and wine tastings. (We will also get all required MoCo permits and insurance).

Friday, June 12th, 2020; 6:00pm - 9:00pm (4:00pm - 10:00pm with set up and breakdown)

Event: Takoma Pride Street Party

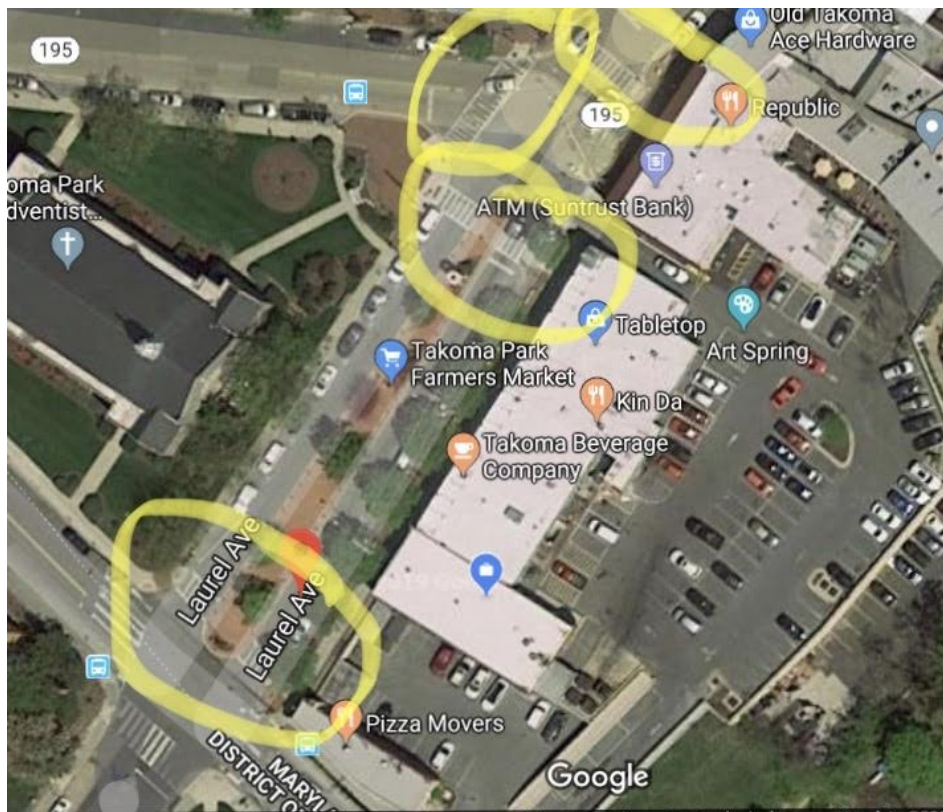
Event Description: The Takoma Pride Street Party is a new event to celebrate our LGBTQ residents and neighbors and to express Takoma Park values while highlighting the unique locally owned, independent businesses in the Takoma Park commercial district. It will be an evening of entertainment, food, drink, education and celebration.

In street: Music, food and beer and wine offered in street. (We will also get all required MoCo permits and insurance).

Additional request: Request to paint rainbow crosswalks on both sides of Laurel Ave and Carroll Ave crosswalks adjacent to Laurel. Please see attached map for locations. We'll use commercial chalk paints (or other that City recommends) that do not last long and we will work with City to return to white crosswalks after an agreed period of time.

Please let me know if you need additional info from me to get started.

Much thanks,
Laura



Laura Barclay | executive director
Old Takoma Business Association
Your Main Street Takoma
Visit mainstreettakoma.org
cell: 240-535-0187
office: 301-891-6789

<https://www.instagram.com/mainstreettakoma/>
<https://www.facebook.com/MainStreetTakoma/>
<https://twitter.com/MainStTakoma>

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Samira Cook Gaines
Economic Development Manager
Housing and Community Development
City of Takoma Park
[7500 Maple Avenue](http://7500MapleAvenue.com)
[Takoma Park, MD 20912](http://TakomaParkMD.com)
Tel: (301) 891-7217
www.takomaparkmd.gov

Takoma Park SDA Church
6810 Eastern Ave
Washington, DC 20012

January 28, 2020

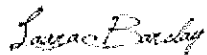
RE: Letter of Understanding

The Takoma Park SDA Church understands that the Old Takoma Business Association proposes to close the 1 block of Laurel Avenue between, Carroll and Eastern, on the following dates for community events (times include set up and breakdown):

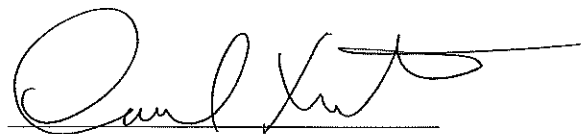
April 25, 2020: 9:00 am – 6:00pm
June 12, 4:00 pm – 10:00pm

The Old Takoma Business Association understands that the Takoma Park SDA Church hosts services on Saturdays and agrees to not play music or conduct any other loud activities on Laurel Ave during the service hours. The Old Takoma Business Association appreciates the Takoma Park SDA Church's continued support.

Signed and Agreed:



Laura Barclay | Executive Director
Old Takoma Business Association



Pastor Daniel Xisto
Takoma Park SDA Church

Introduced by:

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

RESOLUTION 2020-

**APPROVING THE CLOSURE OF LAUREL AVENUE
FOR OLD TAKOMA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION
EVENTS ON APRIL 25 AND JUNE 12, 2020**

WHEREAS, the Old Takoma Business Association has requested the closure of Laurel Avenue for Art Hop on April 25, 2020 and Takoma Park Pride Day on June 12, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Association has coordinated with the Takoma Park SDA Church regarding noise and has submitted a signed letter of understanding between the parties; and

WHEREAS, the Association has requested permission to paint rainbow crosswalks on Laurel Avenue for the June 12 Takoma Park Pride Day and agrees to work with the Public Works Director to select the best type of paint for the project and to return the crosswalks to white at an agreed upon time after the event; and

WHEREAS, public events such as Art Hop and Takoma Park Pride Day help to enliven the Old Takoma Business area and bring in customers to help retain and strengthen the small locally owned businesses there.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Takoma Park approves the closure of Laurel Avenue on Saturday, April 25, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. for Art Hop and on Friday, June 12, 2020, from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. for the Takoma Pride Street Party.

Adopted by the Council of the City of Takoma Park, Maryland this ____ day of _____, 2020.

Attest: