



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – February 12, 2020 Agenda Item 1A

Voting Session (Consent Agenda)

Resolution Approving the Closure of Laurel Avenue for Special Events on April 25 and June 12

Recommended Council Action

Adopt the resolution.

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. 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.

OTBA has agreed to 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.

The Takoma Park SDA Church and Old Takoma Business Association have signed a letter of understanding regarding noise during church service hours on these days.

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

- Draft resolution

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: