



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – October 14, 2020 Agenda Item 4

Voting Session

Two Reading Ordinance Approving the Request of the Committee on the Environment to Suspend Its Operations

Recommended Council Action

Approve Ordinance at First Reading

Context with Key Issues

The City Council has received a request from the Committee on the Environment to suspend its operations. The request also seeks to permit the members of the Committee on the Environment to continue their individual work with a racial justice facilitator. The City Attorney has prepared a draft Ordinance to approve the request. The Ordinance will expire on June 30, 2021.

Council Priority

Environmentally Sustainable Community; Engaged, Responsive, Service-oriented Government

Environmental Considerations

Suspension of the Committee eliminates the assistance of the group as a whole to offer recommendations on environmental matters to the City Council.

Fiscal Considerations

There is no fiscal impact of this action.

Racial Equity Considerations

A main purpose of the suspension is to allow for Committee members to work with a racial justice facilitator and to allow time for the City Council to appoint a more racially diverse membership.

Attachments and Links

First Reading Ordinance

1 Introduced by: Councilmember _____
2
3

First Reading:
Second Reading:
Effective Date:

4
5 **CITY OF TAKOMA PARK**
6 **MARYLAND**
7

8 **UNCODIFIED ORDINANCE**
9 **2020-__**
10

11 **An uncodified Ordinance whereby the City of Takoma Park approves**
12 **the request of the Committee on the Environment to suspend its**
13 **operations.**
14

15 **WHEREAS,** the City of Takoma Park Code, Section 2.16.180 establishes the Committee on
16 the Environment to “serve in an official advisory and coordination role to the City
17 Council on all matters related to environmental sustainability, protection and
18 restoration[;]” and
19

20 **WHEREAS,** the City Council received a request from the Committee on the Environment
21 whereby it seeks to suspend its operations; and
22

23 **WHEREAS,** the request further seeks to permit the members of the Committee on the
24 Environment to continue their individual work with a racial justice facilitator to
25 develop for the City Council recommended strategies which seek to promote a
26 more diverse membership composition of the City’s Boards, Commissions, and
27 Committees; and
28

29 **WHEREAS,** various aspects of the City’s Boards, Commissions, and Committees are presently
30 undergoing a general review, including the Committee on the Environment, and
31 it is anticipated that revisions to portions of the Code governing the Committee
32 on the Environment shall be made.
33

34 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF**
35 **TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND, THAT** the City Council hereby approves the request of the
36 Committee on the Environment to suspend its operations and enacts this uncodified Ordinance as
37 follows:
38

39 **Section 1.** The Committee on the Environment shall suspend its operations effective upon
40 the passage of this Ordinance.
41

42 **Section 2.** The current members of the Committee on the Environment, John Ackerly,
43 Jeffrey Brokaw, Kirsten Stade, and Elizabeth Thompson, may continue their
44 individual work with a racial justice facilitator to develop for the City Council
45 recommended strategies which seek to promote a more diverse membership
46 composition of the City’s Boards, Commissions, and Committees.

1
2 **Section 3.** The Committee on the Environment may not resume operations except as set forth
3 herein.

4
5 **Section 4.** The City Council may rescind, modify, or extend this uncodified emergency
6 Ordinance.

7
8 **Section 5.** This Ordinance shall expire on June 30, 2021.

9
10 THIS ORDINANCE, WHICH IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, IS ADOPTED BY THE
11 COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND, THIS 21ST DAY OF
12 OCTOBER 2020, BY ROLL-CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS:

13
14 AYE:

15 NAY:

16 ABSTAIN:

17 ABSENT: