



## Takoma Park City Council Meeting – November 18, 2020 Agenda Item 6

### **Work Session**

Request to Remove Housing and Community Development Director Position from the “Hold List”

### **Recommended Council Action**

Consider request

### **Context with Key Issues**

The Housing and Community Development (HCD) Director position has been vacant for over 1 ½ years. With the pandemic hitting just as the FY21 City budget was being considered, the City Manager suggested that the position not be filled before December 2020. Funding for the position for the period of January through June 2021 was put on the budget “hold list” by the City Council, to be revisited later in the year.

Since that time, it is clear that the position is critically needed. The City’s extremely heavy COVID-19 response work rests primarily on the staff of the Housing and Community Development Department. Oversight of departmental personnel, legal matters and budget preparation requires professional management and a significant amount of time. In addition, a number of land development proposals and planning efforts will require coordinated attention in the coming year. City Manager Suzanne Ludlow has been assisting with planning, legal and budget matters for the department while the position is vacant, but she will be retiring on July 1, 2021.

The City Manager would like to begin advertising the HCD Director position so that it may be filled in January, when work on the proposed budget begins in earnest.

### **Council Priority**

Engaged, Responsive, Service-oriented Government

### **Environmental Considerations**

N/A

### **Fiscal Considerations**

Funding for the position for half of the fiscal year is in the budget.

### **Racial Equity Considerations**

The absence of a department head hampers the City’s ability to fully respond to the COVID-19 crisis as well as implement the Housing and Economic Development Strategic Plan, thus disproportionately impacting residents of color in Takoma Park.

### **Attachments and Links**