



Mayoral Proclamation

Achievements of the District 20 Delegation in the 2021 Legislative Session

- WHEREAS, the 2021 Maryland General Assembly Session, held in a largely virtual format due to the COVID-19 pandemic, resulted in significant advancements in issues important to the City of Takoma Park and its residents and businesses; and
- WHEREAS, during the Session, Senator Will Smith presided over the most comprehensive and consequential reform of policing in our state's history; and
- WHEREAS, Senator Smith led efforts to change how the State compensates people wrongfully convicted for a crime they did not commit, abolish the practice of sentencing a youth to die in prison without an opportunity to petition the court for consideration of a reduction in sentence, and reform the parole decision-making process; and
- WHEREAS, Senator Smith supported our immigrant neighbors by sponsoring the Dignity Not Detention Act which will end state involvement in private ICE detention centers and stop law enforcement from asking about citizenship status; and
- WHEREAS, Senator Smith worked in support of the LGBTQ+ community to help pass legislation prohibiting a so-called "panic defense" from being used as a mitigating factor in criminal prosecutions, ensuring greater privacy protections in the legal name-changing process, and explicitly include gender identity as a protected class in the State's hate crime law; and
- WHEREAS, Delegate David Moon served as floor leader during key House of Delegates debates in the passage of numerous police accountability reforms this year including reining in police use of force, increasing compensation for those harmed by police, doubling the amount of bodycam footage police need to record leading up to incidents, and banning police departments from ignoring misconduct; and
- WHEREAS, Delegate Moon led the floor defense of a bill to close Maryland's for-profit ICE detention centers and helped to shepherd the bill through the House Judiciary Committee; and

WHEREAS, Delegate Moon passed legislation giving Montgomery County and its municipalities more authority in lowering speed limits in the pursuit of pedestrian and bicycle safety, which was a Takoma Park legislative priority; and

WHEREAS, Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins led the fight for voting rights expansion in Maryland from increasing voting hours and more early voting sites, to guaranteeing the right to vote for incarcerated individuals; and

WHEREAS, Delegate Wilkins championed several renters' rights bills and worked in coalition with colleagues and advocates to fight for renters' rights and protections from evictions during the pandemic and permanent structural reforms to the State's inequitable eviction process; and

WHEREAS, Delegate Wilkins, as a leader in the House of Delegates, managed several floor debates related to legislation aimed at progress toward racial justice; and

WHEREAS, Delegate Lorig Charkoudian passed Community Choice Energy legislation, which will allow Montgomery County to aggregate and purchase clean energy on behalf of residents and support the goal of massive reduction in greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, Delegate Charkoudian passed legislation to develop an urban tree program to replace trees that are removed during the construction of a transportation facility project, including the area impacted by the Purple Line project; and

WHEREAS, Delegate Charkoudian also passed a comprehensive bill to fix problems in the Unemployment System and to connect unemployed individuals with affordable health insurance, and passed legislation to build a just, equitable, and sustainable food system and respond to the food insecurity emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kate Stewart, Mayor of the City of Takoma Park, Maryland, on behalf of the Council, staff and residents, hereby congratulate the 20th District Delegation on its success during the 2021 Legislative Session and express our gratitude to Senator Smith, Delegate Moon, Delegate Wilkins, and Delegate Charkoudian for championing the City of Takoma Park's priorities in Annapolis.

Dated this 19th day of May, 2021.



Kate Stewart
Mayor