



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – May 19, 2021 Agenda Item 5

Voting Session

Resolution Approving the Temporary Closure of Laurel Avenue for the Opera Truck on May 28, 2021

Recommended Council Action

Consider the request.

Context with Key Issues

The City has received a request from Laura Barclay, Executive Director of the Old Takoma Business Association, to close the west side Laurel Avenue on Friday, May 28, from 4:00 PM to 9:00 PM. The closure would enable the Association to host the Washington National Opera's "Opera Truck" for a 30-minute performance. The additional time is needed for set up and breakdown of a mini attached stage.

Ms. Barclay has applied for a letter of approval from the Montgomery County Health Department to ensure that the performance can be accomplished safely under current COVID-19 protocols. The Council's approval would be contingent on the Health Department's response.

Council Priority

A Livable Community for All

Environmental Considerations

N/A

Fiscal Considerations

There is minimal fiscal impact for the City.

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

- Resolution Authorizing the Temporary Closure of Laurel Avenue on May 28
- Email Request from Laura Barclay

Introduced by:

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND
RESOLUTION 2021-**

**AUTHORIZING A TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF LAUREL AVENUE ON MAY 28 FOR
THE WASHINGTON NATIONAL OPERA’S OPERA TRUCK**

WHEREAS, the Old Takoma Business Association (OTBA) proposes to close the west side of Laurel Avenue on Friday, May 28, from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. to host the Washington National Opera’s “Opera Truck;” and

WHEREAS, the performance would last for 30 minutes but the additional time is needed for set up and breakdown of a mini attached stage; and

WHEREAS, the other side of Laurel Avenue is closed to accommodate the Takoma Streeter; and

WHEREAS, OTBA has submitted the plan for the event to the Montgomery County Health Department to ensure that the performance can be accomplished safely under current COVID-19 protocols.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND authorizes the City Manager to close Laurel Avenue on Friday, May 28, from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for a performance by the Washington National Opera; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Old Takoma Business Association shall follow the protocols and restrictions from the Montgomery County Department of Health related to COVID-19.

Adopted this ____ day of May, 2021.

Attest:

Jessie Carpenter, CMC
City Clerk



Jessie Carpenter <jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov>

Request to Temporarily Close Laurel for Washington Opera 5/28/21

1 message

Laura Barclay <laura@mainstreettakoma.org>
To: Jessie Carpenter <jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov>
Cc: Samira Cook Gaines <samiraCG@takomaparkmd.gov>

Tue, Apr 27, 2021 at 10:34 AM

The Washington National Opera (which operates out of the Kennedy Center with a satellite rehearsal and costume dept in Takoma, DC) has introduced an Opera Truck during the pandemic. Seth Cook, co-owner of Takoma Bev Co and a member of the Washington National Symphony Orchestra worked to get the Opera Truck here for a performance on its closing date, Friday May 28th.

See [truck](#)

We thought that they could set up somewhere on the closed Streeterly, but the truck has a safety standard of a 25' cleared radius around singers. In order to accommodate that, I would like to request the closure of Laurel Ave, church side from, 4::00-9:00pm on Friday evening, May 28th in order to host this truck and enliven the Streeterly with live Opera music for a 30 minute performance (the remaining time requested is for set up and breakdown of a mini-attached stage).

They have traveled to other neighborhoods and communities during the pandemic. I hope that we can also enjoy here in Takoma Park. I do not imagine a big crowd (it is Opera and Memorial Day weekend).

Please let me know if you have any questions or require additional information.

Thanks,
Laura

Laura Barclay | executive director
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(she/her/hers)

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