

Introduced by:

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

RESOLUTION 2021-20

**RECOGNIZING RETIRING CITY MANAGER SUZANNE LUDLOW
FOR HER 27 YEARS OF EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE
AND HER ENDURING TAKOMA PARK LEGACY**

WHEREAS, City Manager Suzanne Ludlow will retire on July 1, 2021. Her 27-year career with the City of Takoma Park began in 1993 as Assistant Director of Housing and Community Development. She has held a number of positions over the years, including Unification Coordinator, Community and Government Liaison, Deputy City Manager, and most recently City Manager; and

WHEREAS, City Manager Ludlow has shaped the course of history in Takoma Park in unparalleled ways during her tenure. Her milestone achievements include:

- Suzanne was the point person and resource for the unification of Takoma Park into one County. As Unification Coordinator from 1995 through 1997, she worked with different teams to identify all the changes that needed to take place when the county line was moved on July 1, 1997 to transition one third of the City from Prince George's County to Montgomery County. There were many switchovers required for unification to succeed, including school boundaries, zoning, 911 call routing, social service case managers, driver's licenses, insurance records, alcoholic beverage licensing, and a number of other items. She coordinated between Takoma Park, Montgomery County, and Prince George's County to ensure a smooth transition.
- As the City's first Community & Government Liaison, Suzanne lobbied the Maryland General Assembly and Montgomery County Council regarding funding and policies for the benefit of Takoma Park. She also negotiated a better municipal tax duplication formula for the Police Rebate from Montgomery County. As the lead advocate and key presenter for the City, she spent hours in the legislative corridors of Annapolis to secure crucial State funding for the Takoma Park Community Center. She spearheaded efforts by the City Council to work with State and County elected leaders to bring about the best outcomes for Takoma Park. Even as others took over these duties later in her career, Suzanne always had a hand in shaping legislative outreach efforts to garner the best results for the City.
- In 2005 when Washington Adventist Hospital announced that it would be moving out of Takoma Park, Suzanne recognized what a tremendous loss it would be for the community. She advocated tirelessly over many years for continued health care access for Takoma Park's residents with the Maryland Health Care Commission, the 20th District Delegation and the Montgomery County Council.

- Takoma Park was an early supporter of the Purple Line and Suzanne advocated on behalf of the City to ensure its success. She recognized the important economic development benefits in addition to the direct benefits it will have for Takoma Park residents who rely on transit.
- As Deputy City Manager starting in 2008, she oversaw the renovation of the City Council Chambers into the Auditorium the City has today, within budget and with a LEED Silver designation for its green features.
- She served as the main contact with Ride On for many years and worked to improve bus access for Takoma Park residents in all parts of the city.
- She played a behind-the-scenes role in obtaining permit rights to County athletic fields which proved to be a turning point in the ongoing success of the local sports leagues.
- She adeptly negotiated a public-private partnership involving 500 volunteers that resulted in the installation of the much-admired mosaic on the Library wall.
- She played a key role in obtaining agreement between the City of Takoma Park, Montgomery College, Historic Takoma, Inc. and Montgomery County regarding local control of Montgomery College activities in the City's Historic Preservation District.
- She served as Acting City Manager in 2012-2013 and again in 2015. She was appointed City Manager on April 1, 2015. As City Manager, she managed a broad and complex portfolio major programs, projects, and initiatives. To highlight just a few of her many efforts:
 - She led the annual preparation of award-winning budgets and capital improvement plans that kept the City in good financial standing and further aligned City operations with Council Priorities and Goals;
 - She oversaw the creation and adoption of the Housing and Economic Development Strategic Plan by the City Council;
 - She created the City's Economic Development Division and hired the first Economic Development Manager;
 - She brought on new leadership for the Takoma Park Police Department to facilitate department restructuring towards community-oriented policing and a "guardian" approach
 - She worked closely with City Council to achieve the City's Declaration of a Climate Emergency in 2019, create the Climate Emergency Response Framework as the basis for a new Sustainability and Climate Action Plan, and improve the City's Tree Ordinance and tree canopy strategy;
 - Thanks to her shepherding, the City received the bond issuance and completed the participatory design process for construction of the new Takoma Park Maryland Library as a community anchor;
 - She directed community engagement and City Planning review for the Takoma Junction project and intersection improvements;
 - She continued work on municipal tax duplication issues throughout the years that culminated in a renewed County Council commitment to

funding and improvement in 2021 and is widely known as the County expert on tax duplication;

- She coordinated the COVID-19 Emergency Response & City workforce shift to remote work;
- She supported the launch of the Minor Master Plan process for the Washington Adventist Hospital campus;
- With help from Housing and Economic Development staff, she enabled the City's first "missing middle" housing subsidies.

WHEREAS, Suzanne consistently demonstrated an exemplary collaborative spirit when working with other governments. Currently, Suzanne is Chair of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Chief Administrative Officers Committee, sharing her considerable expertise with fellow administrators. She also undertook many joint efforts with the Silver Spring Regional Service Center. During the pandemic, Suzanne worked diligently with Montgomery County to ensure all communities in Takoma Park received timely and useful information for testing, vaccines, and food distributions; and

WHEREAS, Suzanne displayed a strong sense of community service in all that she did for the City, often putting the Takoma Park community before her own needs by making herself available at all hours to respond to urgent City matters; and

WHEREAS, as City Manager, Suzanne championed collaboration and transparency. A longtime member of the International City-County Manager's Association, she exemplified the ICMA Code of Ethics in her strong commitment to maintaining the public trust and her deep sense of social responsibility; and

WHEREAS, Suzanne was a hands-on leader for City staff and almost never worked behind a closed door. She acted daily as an enthusiastic cheerleader and roamed around the Community Center greeting staff at all levels; and

WHEREAS, She was incredibly attentive to community concerns and values and empowered her staff over many years to push towards continuous improvement and innovation. Her tireless leadership paved the way for Takoma Park's reputation as a regional leader in progressive urban policy, particularly on policy strategies targeting underserved communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND gratefully acknowledges and extends deep thanks for the pioneering leadership, boundless energy, and inspirational dedication of Suzanne Ludlow during her 27 years of service to the City of Takoma Park; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL recognizes Suzanne's indelible influence on the City's evolution over the past two decades and her significant

advancement of the Council's vision for a highly responsive City government and exceptional community where all residents can thrive.

Adopted this 30th day of June, 2021 by roll-call vote as follows:

AYE:

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Attest:

Jessie Carpenter, CMC
City Clerk