



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – July 28, 2021 Agenda Item 1

Voting Session

Resolution Authorizing Submission of Legislative Requests to Submit to the Maryland Municipal League

Recommended Council Action

Consider and vote on requests.

Context with Key Issues

Member municipalities in the Maryland Municipal League (MML) may submit up to three Legislative Action Requests (LARs) each year for consideration as MML initiatives before the Maryland General Assembly. The deadline to submit for the 2022 Legislative Session is July 30.

The MML LAR process is as follows:

- Member municipalities submit up to three LAR forms on issues they would like to have addressed by legislation in the upcoming General Assembly Session;
- MML staff prepares background on each LAR for the Legislative Committee to consider;
- The Legislative Committee meets to discuss the requests and to consider the MML priority issues not resolved during the previous session;
- The MML membership votes on the recommended Legislative Committee priorities at the Fall Conference in October.

The City Council discussed potential priorities at its work session on July 14. There was consensus around submitting requests related to housing affordability and evictions, and climate mitigation/adaptation.

Council Priority

Environmentally Sustainable Community; Community Development for an Improved and Equitable Quality of Life; Mitigate the Impact of COVID-19 on the Community and City Operations

Environmental Considerations

The City's Climate Emergency Response Framework calls for more aggressive action on climate change mitigation and adaptation at the county, state, and federal levels.

Fiscal Considerations

N/A

Racial Equity Considerations

Legislative action related to housing affordability and evictions would have the most benefit for lower income households and people of color.

Attachments and Links

- Draft Resolution

Introduced by:

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

RESOLUTION 2021-

**Resolution Authorizing Transmittal of Legislative Action Requests
To the Maryland Municipal League for Consideration**

WHEREAS, the Takoma Park City Council is charged with setting policy and pursuing legislative changes in the best interests of the Takoma Park community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Takoma Park is an active member of the Maryland Municipal League (MML); and

WHEREAS, MML pursues legislative changes to benefit Maryland municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has further strained the already limited ability of low-income households to find housing and afford rents, while residents who have housing face the potential loss of their homes due to reduced income, rising property values and pressures of gentrification; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has recognized a continuing climate emergency that affects municipalities and their residents statewide, by declaring a climate emergency in March 2019 and adopting a framework for climate emergency response in March 2020, and recognizes that communities, neighborhoods and residents most vulnerable to climate impacts tend to be least prepared to manage and recover; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has identified requests to forward to MML for its consideration as legislative priorities for the League.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Takoma Park authorizes the City Manager to transmit to the MML the following Legislative Action Requests:

1. The Council urges MML to initiate or support legislation that assists municipalities with housing and community development issues by:
 - Requiring that the District Courts collect and share timely and dynamic data related to executed evictions. This will allow municipalities to better plan for eviction prevention programming and neighborhood development efforts.
 - Giving authority for municipal or county governments to enact “just cause” eviction legislation if they desire.
 - Shielding court records related to failure to pay rent judgements that are used to prevent renters from obtaining housing.

- Promoting legislation or sources of funding to maintain or increase affordable housing in areas with rising property values and rents resulting from infrastructure improvements, transit projects such as the Purple Line, and redevelopment.
2. The Council urges the MD Municipal League to initiate or support statewide climate mitigation and adaptation legislation that would:
- Assist municipalities with resources and technical support to meet state and local climate mitigation and adaptation goals,
 - Provide targets and resources to dramatically improve the energy efficiency of buildings, especially low- and middle-income housing and multifamily buildings,
 - Facilitate greater use of zero-emission vehicles, public transit, and other de-carbonizing transportation strategies, and
 - Embrace aggressive statewide targets and actions for climate mitigation and adaptation.

Adopted this _____ day of July, 2021.

Attest:

Jessie Carpenter, CMC
City Clerk