



## Takoma Park City Council Meeting – October 19, 2022 Agenda Item 4

### **Work Session**

Proposed Appointment to the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs

### **Recommended Council Action**

Consider the appointment.

### **Context with Key Issues**

The Takoma Park Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (COLTA) is established in Chapter 6.24 of the Takoma Park Code and its responsibilities are listed therein. COLTA is empowered to adjudicate complaints for violations of Chapter 6.16, Landlord-Tenant Relations, to rule on petitions for rent increases above the rent stabilization allowance in accordance with Chapter 6.20, Rent Stabilization, and to decide appeals from the City Manager's decision to deny, suspend or revoke a license under Chapter 6.08, Rental Housing Licenses. The Commission is to consist of at least seven, but no more than 12, members appointed by the Council. The Council shall make every effort to ensure that the Commission has representation from landlords, tenants and homeowners.

The process for soliciting applications and appointing members to boards and committees was refined by the City Council to recruit and consider applicants two times per year: solicit applications in November/December for January appointments and in April/May for June appointments. Staff is requesting a deviation from the schedule for this particular applicant.

There are 9 members currently on the Commission. Most of the members are new and have never conducted a hearing. We have received an application from Lauren Price, a former COLTA member and chairperson. Because there is little experience on the current Commission, staff requests that Council consider this appointment now, rather than waiting until January.

Ms. Price's application has been sent to the City Council for review. If the Council concurs with the staff request, an appointment resolution would be added to the agenda for October 26, 2022.

### **Council Priority**

A Livable Community for All; Engaged, Responsive & Service-oriented Government

### **Environmental Considerations**

N/A

### **Fiscal Considerations**

N/A

**Racial Equity Considerations**

Some Council-appointed committees do not generally reflect the diversity of the population of Takoma Park. The membership of COLTA more closely reflects the diversity of the community. Additionally, all board and committee members are expected to comply with a Council-adopted code of conduct for committee members (Resolution 2020-22, October 7, 2020) in part to address equity issues.

**Attachments and Links**

None