

Introduced by:

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

**RESOLUTION
EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO ALEX CROSS
FOR HIS SERVICE AS TAKOMA PARK HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DIRECTOR**

- WHEREAS, Alex Cross became the Housing and Community Development Director of the City of Takoma Park on August 16, 2021 and assumed management of a department that had been without a Director for several years with position vacancies limiting staff capacity; and
- WHEREAS, at the time Mr. Cross was hired, the City was still recovering from the socioeconomic repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic, with many of the City's low-income residents disproportionately impacted, placing increased demands on HCD's community services; and
- WHEREAS, Mr. Cross acted quickly to fill vacant positions, re-organize Departmental workflows, streamline business processes, redistribute workloads, and restart stalled community projects; and
- WHEREAS, during Mr. Cross's tenure, the Department brought in almost \$1.8 million in grant funds for projects ranging from bikeways to housing affordability to the Takoma Park Recreation Center and distributed rental assistance to vulnerable households, grants for local non-profits, and grants to small businesses; and
- WHEREAS, Mr. Cross provided strategic vision for the use of ARPA funds to expand HCD services and accelerate priority projects resulting in \$3.7 million in ARPA funds devoted to HCD projects including the Multi-Family Rehabilitation Fund and Takoma-Langley Crossroads Business Incubator; and
- WHEREAS, Mr. Cross advised City management on complex issues including emergency assistance for seven families displaced by the Maple View fire, housing code updates, and rental stabilization; and
- WHEREAS, Mr. Cross oversaw community outreach around the Public Space Management Plan that provided exemplary strategies for engaging residents across all Wards using innovative and equitable methods; and
- WHEREAS, Mr. Cross emphasized collaboration with other Departments and encouraged best practices exchange to enhance internal operations; and
- WHEREAS, Mr. Cross assisted in Citywide initiatives beyond his own Department, engendering respect from his colleagues as a strong communicator, hands-on manager, and servant leader; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK THAT great appreciation is given to Alex Cross for his service to the people, Council and staff of the City of Takoma Park; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT best wishes are extended to Mr. Cross in his future endeavors.

Adopted this 20th day of April, 2022.

Attest:

Jessie Carpenter, CMC
City Clerk