

Introduced by:

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

**RESOLUTION 2023-x
ADOPTING THE COUNCIL PRIORITIES**

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

WHEREAS, the Council holds an annual “Council Retreat” in advance of the budget preparation process to discuss its policy and budget priorities for the upcoming fiscal year and beyond; and

WHEREAS, this year’s retreat took place on January 30; and

WHEREAS, the Council further discussed its priorities at Council meetings on March 8, 15, and 22;

WHEREAS, the Council priorities which are established inform the development of the City Manager’s recommended budget and, more generally, indicate the strategic direction the Council intends to move the City during its term; and

WHEREAS, the Council reviewed and made changes to its 2021-2022 priorities document to reflect updated goals, strategies, and outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the Council has indicated which of these priorities as well as new priorities that should be focused on in the upcoming fiscal year (Fiscal Year 2024); and

WHEREAS, the prioritized areas identified include:

- Building on lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic to increase residents’ and small businesses’ resilience to the impact of emergency situations, so that they can recover and thrive in the future;
- Establishing the City’s long-term fiscal sustainability strategy;
- Hiring and onboard a new City Manager;
- Working on policies designed to ensure that a range of safe, high quality, affordable and stable housing options are equitably available in neighborhoods throughout the community;
- Advancing City communications with residents and adopt innovative, culturally appropriate initiatives to improve public engagement and

collaboration with residents, particularly with residents who may face barriers to participating in municipal government activities and community affairs;

- Addressing climate mitigation and resilience by working towards net zero greenhouse gas emission goal by 2035 through proposed actions outlined in the climate action framework, stormwater study, and on climate resilience; and
- Planning and preparing for development in the City and region while maintaining the special character and economic and racial diversity of Takoma Park including the Library and Community Center renovation, Recreation Center development, and Minor Master Plan finalization.

WHEREAS, the Council can revisit the priorities document as it deems necessary to make changes or adjustments; and

WHEREAS, the Council acknowledges that there are a number of major projects, initiatives, and ongoing activities which will take Council and staff time to complete, in addition to the above priorities, and which are identified in the priorities document; and

WHEREAS, many of the priorities and goals described in the Council priorities document will endure beyond calendar year 2023 and Fiscal Year 2024, though strategies described in this resolution may change more quickly based on opportunities that may arise to achieve those goals, and

WHEREAS, the Council may take action on issues not listed in the priorities document based on urgent or exigent circumstances.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Takoma Park formally adopts the Council Priorities attached hereto and incorporated by reference.

**ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND,
THIS 10TH DAY OF APRIL, 2023.**

Attest:

Jessie Carpenter, CMC
City Clerk