



Mayoral Proclamation

Honoring the Community of Support for the TKPK 5K Race

- WHEREAS,** the first TKPK 5K race was organized as a part of the city's Safe Routes to School Program in 2009; and
- WHEREAS,** the purpose of the race was to build enthusiasm and raise awareness of pedestrian safety initiatives offered through the Safe Routes to School program for local students, families, and neighbors; and
- WHEREAS,** the TKPK 5K race generated over \$115,000 of funding from sponsorships and race fees to support pedestrian safety and wellness programming at five partner schools: Takoma Park Elementary School, Piney Branch Elementary School, Rolling Terrace Elementary School, East Silver Spring Elementary School, and Takoma Park Middle School; and
- WHEREAS,** the race became a beloved community event and was anticipated by members from across the Takoma Park community each year; and
- WHEREAS,** over its fourteen-year tenure, thousands of diverse community members participated in the 5K and 1-Mile race, with over 1,500 racers at its pre-pandemic peak; and
- WHEREAS,** dozens of community businesses, including insurance providers, real estate companies, restaurants, and markets, provided financial and in-kind support for the race each year; and
- WHEREAS,** the hundreds of volunteers that served on the annual Race Committee and race day staff that committed time, labor, and passion to ensure the smooth running of the race; and
- WHEREAS,** the race's origin and successful implementation year after year stemmed from the tireless effort, enthusiasm, and care of the city's former Safe Routes to School Coordinator, Lucy Neher; and
- WHEREAS,** moving forward, the TKPK 5K race will no longer be managed by the city; and
- WHEREAS,** the city encourages community organizations and/or groups to consider managing the race and will maintain archived race materials and management resources in support of reviving the event in the future.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Talisha Searcy, Mayor of the City of Takoma Park, Maryland, on behalf of the Council, staff and residents, hereby recognize the thousands of community members—organizers, volunteers, racers, and sponsors—that made the TKPK 5K race successful and thank them all, and especially Lucy Neher, for leaving a tremendous legacy with this cherished community event.

Dated this XX Day of September, 2023.

Talisha Searcy
Mayor