

Introduced by: Councilmember Schultz

First Reading: February 25, 2013

Second Reading: March 11, 2013

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

ORDINANCE NO. 2013-6

**AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH
THE POTOMAC CONFERENCE OF THE SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH**

WHEREAS, the New Hampshire Avenue Corridor Concept Plan, adopted by Council in 2008, emphasizes diversifying the commercial mix at the Maryland Gateway. The plan establishes steps for implementation, including working with property owners for rehabilitation and redevelopment of sites and using consultants when needed to make spaces more leasable; and

WHEREAS, 6530 New Hampshire Avenue, owned by the Potomac Conference of the Seventh Day Adventist Church, has been vacant and deteriorating for many years and could serve as a catalyst in bringing new activity and investment to the New Hampshire Avenue corridor; and

WHEREAS, the Potomac Conference has received a proposal for a feasibility study by Landis Construction to assess the condition of the building, estimate what would be required to bring it into functionality and achieve a LEED-certifiable level of green development, prepare for the next stage of design and engineering plans, and analyze the viability of a business incubator in that location; and

WHEREAS, business incubators are designed to give start-up businesses assistance through mentoring, technical support, access to financing and informal entrepreneurial support, while lowering the barriers to entry. A business incubator at that location would draw together community resources and address economic challenges faced by area residents, many of whom are new Americans; and

WHEREAS, the Potomac Conference has requested the City share in the cost of the proposed feasibility study; and

WHEREAS, the Council has adopted measures to support revitalization and economic development of the New Hampshire Avenue corridor, including the New Hampshire Avenue Corridor Concept Plan (adopted in 2008); the Enterprise Zone; and the Takoma-Langley Crossroads Sector Plan (adopted by Council and by County Council in 2012).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND THAT:

SECTION 1. The Acting City Manager is hereby authorized to execute a Memorandum of Understanding between the Potomac Conference of the Seventh Day Adventist Church and the City of Takoma Park for the feasibility study, as proposed.

SECTION 2. The City's contribution is not to exceed \$14,000.

SECTION 3. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately.

ADOPTED this 11th day of March, 2013 by roll-call vote as follows:

AYE: Williams, Grimes, Male, Schultz, Seamens
NAY: Smith
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Daniels-Cohen