

1 Introduced by: Councilmember Searcy

2  
3 **CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND**

4  
5 **UNCODIFIED EMERGENCY ORDINANCE**  
6 **2020-28**  
7

8 **An uncodified Ordinance whereby the City of Takoma Park suspends appointments to**  
9 **Boards, Commissions, and Committees except in circumstances in which the Council**  
10 **determines that an appointment for a Board, Commission, or Committee is necessary to**  
11 **perform its assigned function, and is representative of Takoma Park’s diversity, and**  
12 **shortens the term of such appointments.**  
13

14 WHEREAS, the City of Takoma Park Code, section 2.16.010(A) Boards and Commissions,  
15 Membership of statutory Council-appointed committees, states that the “Council  
16 shall appoint all members of the committees identified in this section,” which  
17 include: the Arts and Humanities Commission, the Board of Elections, the  
18 Commemoration Commission, the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs, the  
19 Committee on the Environment, the Emergency Preparedness Committee, the  
20 Ethics Commission, the Facade Advisory Board, the Noise Control Board, the  
21 Nuclear-Free Committee, the Personnel Appeal Board, the Recreation Committee,  
22 the Complete Safe Streets Committee, and the Tree Commission; and  
23

24 WHEREAS, the City of Takoma Park Code, section 2.16.010(C) Membership of statutory  
25 Council-appointed committees sets forth a Term Expiration Chart for  
26 appointments to the aforementioned Boards, Commissions, and Committees,  
27 which identifies varying term lengths and varying dates of expiration; and  
28

29 WHEREAS, the City of Takoma Park code, section 2.04.040(B)(1) Ordinances and resolutions  
30 defined, permits the Council to further establish “various City commissions and  
31 task forces” by “simple resolution,” which do not have the force and effect of law;  
32 and  
33

34 WHEREAS, various aspects of the City’s Boards, Commissions, and Committees are presently  
35 undergoing a general review and it is anticipated that revisions to portions of the  
36 Code governing such entities will be made; and  
37

38 WHEREAS, the City was unable to complete its review prior to the conclusion of FY 2020 for  
39 a variety of reasons, to include the state of emergency and public health  
40 catastrophe caused by the outbreak of the disease known as COVID-19, also  
41 referred to as the novel coronavirus; and  
42

43 WHEREAS, in order to ensure the City has the ability to address the length of terms of office  
44 as part of its general review of the City’s Boards, Commissions, and Committees,  
45 and simultaneously ensure that vacancies are filled, it is necessary to modify the  
46 terms of office for those appointed prior to the review being completed; and

1  
2 WHEREAS, in light of the current pandemic, and until the City completes its general review of  
3 the City's Boards, Commissions, and Committees, it is the sense of the Council  
4 that future appointments should be confined to circumstances in which such  
5 appointments are necessary to allow a Board, Commission, or Committee to  
6 perform its assigned functions, provided any appointment thereto represents the  
7 diversity of the community.  
8

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA  
10 PARK, MARYLAND, THAT the City Council hereby suspends the requirement to make  
11 appointments to the City's Boards, Commissions, and Committees, except as stated herein, and  
12 shortens the term for any appointments thereto, as follows:  
13

14 Section 1. The requirement to make appointments to the City's Boards, Commissions, and  
15 Committees is suspended except in circumstances in which the Council  
16 determines, at its sole discretion, that such appointments are necessary to allow  
17 the Board, Committee, or Commission to perform its assigned functions, or the  
18 appointment increases the diversity of the committee to better reflect the diversity  
19 of the community.  
20

21 Section 2. The terms of office for members appointed to City Boards, Commissions, and  
22 Committees pursuant to this Emergency Ordinance shall expire on June 30, 2021.  
23

24 Section 3. This Ordinance applies to all City Boards, Commissions, and Committees, and  
25 not just those identified in the City of Takoma Park Code, section 2.16.010(C).  
26

27 Section 4. The City Council may rescind, modify, or extend this uncodified emergency  
28 Ordinance.  
29

30 THIS ORDINANCE, WHICH IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, IS ADOPTED BY THE  
31 COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARLYAND, THIS 7TH DAY OF  
32 OCTOBER, 2020, BY ROLL-CALL VOTE AS FOLLOWS:  
33

34 AYE: Stewart, Kovar, Dyballa, Kostiuk, Seamens, Smith, Searcy

35 NAY:

36 ABSTAIN:

37 ABSENT: