

Introduced by: Councilmember Schultz

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

RESOLUTION 2017-6

RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE 2017 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 in order to discuss its policy and budget priorities for the upcoming fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, this year’s Retreat took place over two evenings on January 9 and 17; and

WHEREAS, the priorities established during the Retreat inform the development of the City Manager’s Recommended Budget and, more generally, indicate the strategic direction the Council intends to move the City; and

WHEREAS, Councilmembers discussed the priorities at the February 8 Council Meeting; and

WHEREAS, goals described in this resolution are likely to endure as priorities beyond 2017, though strategies described in this resolution may change more quickly based on the best opportunities that arise to achieve those goals.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Takoma Park formally affirms the 2017 Council Priorities.

**ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND,
THIS 15TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2017.**

Attest:

Jessie Carpenter, CMC
City Clerk

Council Priorities (Affirmed in February 2016; Updated in February 2017)



A Livable Community For All

Goal	Strategy	Desired Outcome	Achieved
Identify youth and family programming needs in the community, especially for our more vulnerable residents including but not limited to those in lower income and immigrant families and those with developmental disabilities, and develop approaches to meet those needs.	Dedicate staff charged with identifying existing resources, and developing, implementing and coordinating program(s) that provide youth and family services and engage youth in civic activities (possible new position). (B)	Expanded youth programming tailored to residents who need them the most or who are accessing them the least.	
	Allocate additional funding for youth programming and coordination of services for youth. Allocate funding for a summer program geared toward school-aged at-risk youth. (B)		
Formalize relationships with neighboring jurisdictions to enhance public safety.	Develop and implement plan of action to enter into mutual aid agreements. (P)	Mutual aid agreements in place with District of Columbia and Prince George's County.	
Ensure we have a range of safe, quality, and stable housing options for residents of varying incomes and all races and ethnicities.	Revise existing housing policy and update 2009 Affordable Housing Plan; explore new approaches to providing affordable rental and home ownership opportunities. (P)	New equitable housing policy adopted and Affordable Housing Plan implemented.	
	Develop and implement plan of action for Housing Reserve Fund, including request for contributions from the County and State. (P)		
Defend status as a Sanctuary City and continue to be a welcoming and inclusive community for all residents.	Dedicate funds for legal services for the City and potentially for residents in jeopardy of being deported. (P/B)	Remain a strong Sanctuary City.	
Move forward on Library renovations.	Acquire bond funding for renovations. (P/B)	Plan and funding in place for Library renovations.	

Council Priorities (Affirmed in February 2016; Updated in February 2017)

Major projects, initiatives and ongoing activities

- Library renovation and expansion, including ADA improvements
- Piney Branch pool – advocate for retention of and investment in County owned and maintained indoor swimming pool; participate in Piney Branch Elementary School facility study
- Park improvements – dog park construction; new construction at Sligo Mill Overlook Park
- Sidewalks – retrofit existing sidewalks to meet ADA requirements; sidewalk design improvements
- Public Land and Open Space Management Plan – adoption and implementation of recommendations
- Public Transit/Bike/ Pedestrian Safety projects – including continuation of the Safe Routes to School Program and bike improvements
- Cultural Plan – implementation of recommendations included in FY16 Update
- Washington Adventist Hospital – advocate for campus that continues to meet the health needs of the community, including a freestanding medical facility, and offers other new amenities available to the public

Council Priorities (Affirmed in February 2016; Updated in February 2017)




Fiscally Sustainable Government

Goal	Strategy	Desired Outcome	Achieved
Increase funding from County to address tax duplication.	Increase Councilmember advocacy and lobbying activities; improve coordination of efforts between staff and Councilmembers. (P)	Increased funding from County to address tax duplication.	
	Partner with other Montgomery County municipalities to pressure County and General Assembly. (P)		
	Develop more accessible, easy-to-understand communication methods for educating residents and other stakeholders; coordinate with news media outlets as appropriate to share information. (B)		
Adopt financial policy to determine the appropriate level of designated reserves.	Review best practices and benchmarks and determine reserve level suitable for City. (P)	Policy adopted.	


Major projects, initiatives and ongoing activities

- Formalize and adopt Financial Policies currently being followed
- Modify budget document in accordance with GFOA standards of excellence in communicating about budget process

Council Priorities (Affirmed in February 2016; Updated in February 2017)

 Environmentally Sustainable Community			
Goal	Strategy	Desired Outcome	Achieved
Achieve greater energy efficiency, particularly in multifamily buildings and businesses.	Dedicate additional funds to promote energy efficiency in multifamily buildings; consider incentives for sustainable development along New Hampshire corridor. (B)	Improved energy efficiency in multi-family buildings; maximize sustainable features in new development.	
Increase renewable energy, particularly solar.	Dedicate additional funds for renewable energy credits and more solar power; consider incentives for multifamily buildings and new development. (B)	Increased use of renewable energy and/or offset of non-renewable energy.	
Preserve and grow tree canopy.	Dedicate additional funds to support established tree and tree canopy goals. (B)	Greater maintenance of mature trees; more plantings on City and private property.	
Major projects, initiatives and ongoing activities			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforcement of City codes – polystyrene ban; Safe Grow; multifamily and business recycling; plastic bag ban • Continue work toward achievement of all Green Team priorities. • Continue implementation of Sustainable Energy Action Plan, including participation in Georgetown Energy Prize competition • Flower Avenue green street • Implement additional Sustainable Maryland Certified goals to increase City's rating • Continue to implement Council authorized Smart Energy Community Goals for energy reduction and green power • Implement stormwater management projects to meet State and Federal mandates for 2017 and 2025 • Continue annual tree planting program 			

Council Priorities (Affirmed in February 2016; Updated in February 2017)

 Engaged, Responsive, Service-oriented Government			
Goal	Strategy	Desired Outcome	Achieved
Identify policing priorities and explore options for enhanced police/community relations.	In addition to community survey, hold community meetings and conversations to learn more about perceptions of police relations with the public. Develop and implement steps that the Police Department can take to improve community relations. (P)	Improved resident survey responses.	
Improve communications with residents, especially two-way online communication.	Regularly update project directory, staff and Councilmember blogs on City website, promote My TkPk application. (P)	Increase in use of My TkPk to report issues.	
	Explore ways in addition to Newsletter to get information to a broader array of residents. (B)		
	Develop innovative graphic representations of key issues to help communicate key issues to residents and policymakers in Rockville and Annapolis. (B)		
	Develop new notification system for utility and other work. (P)	Better communication with residents about utility and other work that may impact them.	

Council Priorities (Affirmed in February 2016; Updated in February 2017)

	Conduct resident survey. (B)	Data that can be used to inform decision-making.	
Make Tree Policy more “user-friendly” and easy to understand.	Revise Tree Policy. (P/B)	More easily understood Tree Policy.	
Major projects, initiatives and ongoing activities			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police Department renovation – concept design • Community policing consulting • Police rebate discussions • Promotion of My TkPk • Continue to serve as liaison between utility companies and community to improve communication and understanding of project impacts • Continue liaison efforts to ameliorate land use conflicts between adjacent businesses and residences • Final decision making and planning for moving City elections to coincide with state and federal elections 			

Council Priorities (Affirmed in February 2016; Updated in February 2017)



Advance Economic Development Efforts

Goal	Strategy	Desired Outcome	Achieved
Attract new businesses and prepare for economic development in the City and region while maintaining the special character of our community.	Dedicate staff to proactive economic development efforts (possible new position). (B)	Formalized economic development strategy.	
	Tap into private sector expertise to explore what development opportunities are feasible. (B)		
	Work with neighboring communities and regional governmental agencies and established business associations to promote the City as an attractive place for economic development. (P/B)		
	Develop and implement plan of action for economic development; review sector plans and act/update as appropriate. (P)		
	Advocate for SHA reconstruction of New Hampshire Corridor consistent with New Ave plan. Seek support from Prince George’s County and the State in these efforts. (P)	SHA reconstruction of New Hampshire Corridor.	
	Continue advocating for repurposing of WAH campus. (P)	Vibrant WAH campus with community amenity and services offerings.	

Major projects, initiatives and ongoing activities

- Takoma Junction development
- Purple Line preparation
- John Nevins Andrews School – advocate for appropriate reuse of property
- Washington - McLaughlin property – identify future use of wooded lots; encourage improvements to school property
- Economic development along New Hampshire
- Redevelopment of New Hampshire Recreation Center
- Contracts for economic development services in Old Takoma and Takoma Langley Crossroads business districts

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- Washington Adventist Hospital site small master plan
- Ethan Allen Streetscape projects