

Introduced by: Councilmember Seamens

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND**

**RESOLUTION 2020-29**

**REMOVING THE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR  
POSITION FROM THE BUDGET “HOLD LIST”**

WHEREAS, the Housing and Community Development Director position was vacant as the City Council was considering the FY21 Budget early on in the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, concerns over the uncertain fiscal impacts of the pandemic led the City Manager to recommend not filling the Housing and Community Development Director position until January 2021 and the City Council placed funding for the position for the remainder of the fiscal year on the “hold list” of budget items that would not be expended until after consideration by the City Council later in the fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has placed extraordinary pressure on the staff of the Housing and Community Development Department as they responded to the critical financial and health needs of residents and businesses affected by the pandemic, including developing grant and other assistance programs, coordinating with County and other agencies, and providing time-intensive one-on-one assistance to people in the most difficult of circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the staff of the Housing and Community Development Department also must do the regular work of personnel management, financial management and reporting, contract and grant management, communication with the public and other units of government, and continue with the Council priorities-based work plans of the planning, housing, and economic development divisions; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager has requested that the City Council remove the Housing and Community Development Director from the “hold list” so that the position could be filled in January 2021, to oversee and coordinate the heavy work of the Department, and to prepare the Department’s proposed budget, an activity that begins before January and requires several months of work annually; and

WHEREAS, filling the Director position is in the short and long-term financial interest of the City as it ensures that staff can provide needed assistance to the public, that funds and legal matters are managed wisely, that large grants can be pursued and managed, and that coordination with County, State and other partners can be developed so that the resources of those entities can be devoted to Takoma Park.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of Takoma Park removes the Housing and Community Development Director from the FY21 Budget “Hold List.”

Adopted this 2nd day of December, 2020.

Attest: Jessie Carpenter, CMC, City Clerk