

Introduced by: Councilmember Dyballa

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

RESOLUTION 2021-39

ADOPTING 2022 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

WHEREAS, the City Council determines state legislative priorities in advance of the General Assembly Session in order to focus the resources of Council, staff, and the City's legislative advocate; and

WHEREAS, the following legislative priorities have been identified for 2022:

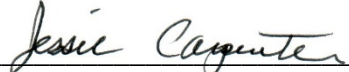
- Mitigate the impacts of the pandemic on residents, businesses and the City of Takoma Park by supporting efforts to:
 - Increase the ability of renters to access legal counsel and emergency rental assistance that supports tenants, landlords, and property owners;
 - Provide funds to directly support residents, businesses, and local government; and
 - Address food insecurity
- Increase access to affordable and energy efficient housing for residents of Takoma Park by supporting efforts to:
 - Increase funding to support the development of affordable housing and other community development projects, including in areas with rising property values and rents resulting from infrastructure improvements, transit projects such as the Purple Line, and redevelopment;
 - Require that the District Courts collect and share timely and dynamic data related to executed evictions to improve programming and neighborhood development efforts;
 - Pass “just cause” eviction legislation in order to stabilize housing and communities;
 - Provide targets and resources to dramatically improve the energy efficiency of buildings, especially low- and middle-income housing and multifamily buildings; and
 - Shield court records related to failure to pay rent judgements that are used to prevent renters from obtaining housing
- Mitigate the impacts of climate change by supporting efforts to:
 - Pass legislation establishing aggressive statewide targets and actions for climate mitigation and adaptation;
 - Facilitate greater use of zero-emission vehicles, public transit, and other de-carbonizing transportation strategies;
 - Assist municipalities with resources and technical support to meet state and local climate mitigation and adaptation goals; and
 - Establish environmental health as a human right

- Reimagine public safety by supporting efforts to:
 - Continue to enact reforms that support and hold police accountable, including at the municipal level; and
 - Increase support for a behavioral health crisis system that increases the opportunity for intervention by health professionals and minimizes the presence of police
- Encourage timely Purple Line construction and mitigation efforts
- Support expanded funding flexibility for municipalities to mitigate funding dependent on property taxes
- Continue efforts to meet Vision Zero goals for pedestrian safety
- Ensure that any movement toward the legalization of cannabis utilizes the revenue generated to invest in communities disproportionately impacted by the “war on drugs”
- Support efforts to consolidate election ballots.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND THAT the City’s state legislative advocacy in 2022 will focus on the priorities listed above.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT establishment of these legislative priorities does not limit the City’s advocacy in support of or opposition to legislation based on conformance with positions the Council has taken in the past or new positions to be taken by adoption of a Council resolution.

Adopted by the Council of the City of Takoma Park this 3rd day of November, 2021.

Attest: 
Jessie Carpenter, CMC
City Clerk