



CITY OF TAKOMA PARK

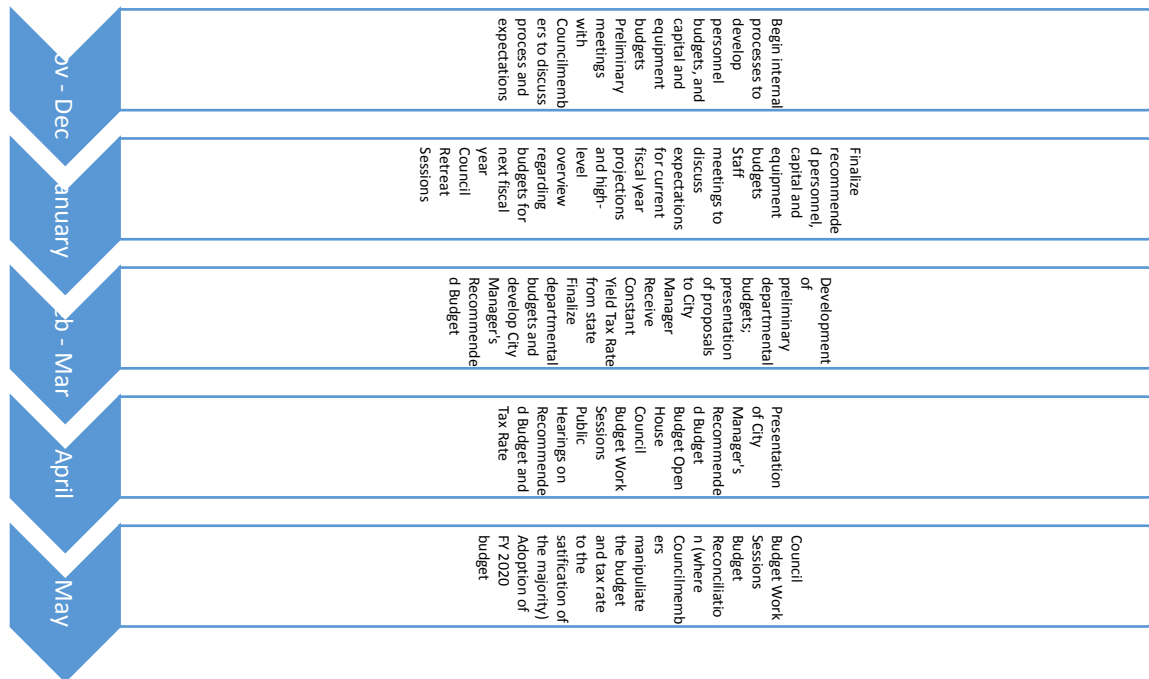
City Manager Comments

Report for City Council Meeting of January 9, 2019

Information to Share

Budget Article on Process and Considerations

As we gear up for the thick of budget season, we wanted to share information about the budget process, highlight challenges we expect to see, and begin engaging residents. To that end, this month's *Newsletter* includes [an article](#) regarding the City Budget that we encourage residents to read. Below is one of the graphics included in the article that outlines the process for the development of the FY 2020 budget.



Impacts of Government Shutdown

Whether they are federal government employees or contractors, it is likely that many Takoma Park residents are impacted by the federal government shutdown. We do not want any residents facing financial hardships due to the shutdown to be unable to participate in our programs, particularly our child care programs. If a resident is in this situation, please let Recreation or other appropriate staff know so that we can work with them. We also wanted to note that we plan to continue hiring staff as we normally would. When the shutdown ends, we will retroactively confirm employment eligibility via E-verify.

December Incident Involving K9 Officer

In early December, there was a terrible incident where a Takoma Park police dog bit a Washington, D.C. resident. The police officer who works with the trained police dog was in pursuit of people who had stolen a vehicle but the police dog acted in an unexpected way and bit a resident walking in the area. The incident occurred just across the line into Washington, D.C. We are taking the matter very seriously and, although the police dog has been recertified since the incident, we have kept the dog out of service. We assisted the victim at the time and are working to address the matter. Metropolitan Police Department officers were on the scene

and we alerted D.C. elected officials about the incident at the time. Investigations are being conducted internally by the Takoma Park Police Department and by the Metropolitan Police Department Internal Affairs Unit. Once both investigations have been completed, a statement regarding the findings will be issued.

Takoma Park Middle School Fields – Unusable February 2019 through November 2020

We recently learned that, due to construction and staging impacts, the fields at Takoma Park Middle School will be unusable beginning in February and lasting through November 2020. This is a little longer than we originally thought. We will continue to work with MCPS to minimize negative impacts of construction and will provide updates to Council as we receive them.

Regular Updates from NDC on Takoma Junction Process/Progress

At the City's request, Neighborhood Development Company will be providing regular updates to the City regarding the Takoma Junction development review process. The updates will be published as they are received on a sub-page of the Takoma Junction project page called "[Takoma Junction Development Review](#)." The first update has been posted.

Traffic Calming on Hilltop Road

Based on residents' request for traffic calming on Hilltop Road, the Council adopted Resolution 2018-38. Pursuant to the resolution, the City installed painted lines as a first step. Data recently collected by the Police Department showed that the paint has done little, if anything, to deter speeding. Therefore, we will be installing a speed hump.

Information on Trees Removed on Takoma Avenue and Fenton Street

About a week ago, five trees were removed in the City rights-of-way on Takoma Avenue and Fenton Street. While meeting onsite with representatives of Montgomery College in the area in late 2018, staff noticed dead limbs on the trees and notified our contractor who does tree pruning. While doing the pruning, the contractor identified more serious rot issues with the trees which were brought to the attention of staff. Upon examination, the trees were determined to be in significant decline and hazardous by three separate arborists. The City will be replanting trees in the rights-of-way on Takoma Avenue and Fenton Street.

Kudos

Kudos to **Pfc. Bryan Hernandez** and **Pvt. Henok Atakilt** who received a commendation recommendation in December after responding to a call of a resident suffering and succumbing to a heart attack. A family member of the deceased wrote, "Both of your Officers showed the utmost respect and professionalism on the scene. Their genuine care and concern for the members of my family was truly touching. These two Officers comforted my family and offered all of their sympathy and support. I cannot express how grateful I am that they are the two that responded to this scene." Thank you Pfc. Hernandez and Pvt. Atakilt for your good work during a difficult situation and the positive reflection it has on our Police Department and City.

Hiring Update

We are currently advertising and/or interviewing for a number of positions including Recreation Program Leaders, Recreation Program Assistant, Sanitation Driver, Contract CDL Driver, Police Officer, Police Intern, and Sustainability Intern.

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