



CITY OF TAKOMA PARK

City Manager Comments

Report for City Council Meeting of January 16, 2019

Information to Share

Greater Washington Community Foundation – Top 5 Finalists for Racial Equity Grant

Although we just learned that we were not selected, we wanted to share that the City and Fairfax County, together, were one of five finalists nationwide for a grant aimed at improving economic mobility for workers of color. The Mayor and Deputy City Manager met last month with representatives of the awarding organization, the National Fund for Workforce Solutions, and the Greater Washington Community Foundation, the organization which submitted the grant application, to discuss the City's efforts on racial equity and how the grant funding might be used. It is impressive that we made it as far as we did in the process, and we will continue to seek opportunities with the Community Foundation and other organizations who share our values and interests in addressing racial inequities.

Kudos

Kudos to all the staff who worked over the weekend and on Monday when City offices were closed to respond to and communicate about the winter weather. Public Works crews did a great job, working long shifts, to clear streets and sidewalks. And our new Communications Specialist, **Donna Wright**, did a great job during her first Takoma Park winter weather event pushing out information to residents.

Kudos to **Pfc. Sims** who received a commendation for an act of kindness that occurred on his way into work:

"This morning I was driving on Woodyard Road in Upper Marlboro when I noted a police cruiser parked at the entrance of James Madison Middle School. A uniformed officer was crossing the road with a shovel and as I passed, I noted an elderly lady shoveling the snow in her driveway on the opposite side of the road.

It was apparent to me that the officer was going to assist the elderly citizen and I turned around to help. I parked my car along side the police cruiser and gathered my shovel as I was on my way to shovel the driveway of my daughter. The officer and I cleared the double driveway as the elderly citizen had retreated to her porch. The officer was dressed in full patrol gear as we quickly cleared the large driveway and it was exhausting work as I tried to keep up with the pace of the officer. As we departed, the officer mentioned he was on his way to work yet he stopped to assist one of our senior citizen. *Fantastic service...*"

Kudos to **Pfc. Merriman** who also received a commendation from a resident for her professionalism:

"I just wanted to express my appreciation for OFC. Merriman. She came by my house yesterday to go through a home security check, and I was thoroughly impressed. She was responsive about setting up the appointment and was extremely knowledgeable. I thought she did a great job of explaining the trends she's seen in crimes, while not being alarmist. She took the time to do a thorough check of my home and make sure that all of my questions were thoughtfully answered. I feel safe knowing that OFC Merriman is helping to protect Takoma Park!"

And finally (to wrap up the Police-kudos show!), kudos to **Pvt. Hernandez and Pvt. Antis** who received the following note of gratitude from a resident who accompanied the officers on a ride-along:

“They were great ambassadors for your department providing a running commentary of their work as we drove and being ready to answer all my questions, no matter how tangential they were!
[Thanks also to Lt. Cipperly for making scheduling this so easy.]

The split shift in Time 3 and Time 2 was a fascinating education about our small but diverse community. As intended, it was also an excellent bridge building exercise between the police and the community.”

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.