



City of Takoma Park

## City Manager Comments

### Report of June 3, 2020

#### **Actions Related to Murder of George Floyd and Other Violence by Police Against Black and Brown People**

As the nation reels from continued incidents of Black people being killed by police officers, a number of actions, reactions and issues arose in Takoma Park. Chief DeVaul issued a statement on the murder of George Floyd. A virtual event was proposed by members of the community and, in conjunction with City officials, was hosted by Takoma Radio on Monday evening.

Early Tuesday morning, a Takoma Park Police officer was sent to the Takoma Junction area to remove some signs that a caller had concerns about. He was videoed by the person who had posted the signs and had an interaction with her that was dismissive and not acceptable. Upon learning of the interaction, the Police Chief put out a statement about the incident and I issued an order suspending the City's prohibition on posting signs. The Mayor also issued a statement on the sign incident expressing her disgust. The Mayor and Police Chief then had a public discussion with residents at the Old Takoma Gazebo which was filmed by City TV.

I want to acknowledge how very painful and infuriating this time is for Black people. I am very sorry that any City police officer would make the situation worse here in Takoma Park. That is not indicative of policing in general in Takoma Park and is not acceptable. The Chief and I are working to address this particular situation and also reinforcing the training and education of our officers that is needed to do real community policing and support here in Takoma Park.

I welcome comments and recommendations. I pledge that I and my staff will do better to work against racism.

Links to the various documents and events are below:

Statement by Chief DeVaul on Murder of George Floyd:

<https://takomaparkmd.gov/news/message-to-the-community-from-chief-devaul-on-the-death-of-george-floyd/>

Hour of Reflection and Call to Action event hosted by Takoma Radio:

<https://soundcloud.com/bondography/an-hour-of-reflection-and-a-call-to-action>

Statement of Chief DeVaul on Incident of Officer Removing Sign:  
<https://takomaparkmd.gov/news/a-message-from-chief-devaul-to-the-community-regarding-sign-removal/>

Statement of Mayor Stewart on Incident of Officer Removing Sign:  
<https://takomaparkmd.gov/news-alert/a-message-from-mayor-stewart-to-the-community/>

Video of gathering with Mayor Stewart and Chief DeVaul at the Takoma Old Town Gazebo:

<https://youtu.be/sw6UWeExmpM>

### **Rental Housing Information**

The Housing Division and the Montgomery County Renters Alliance will be hosting a webinar tomorrow at 7:00 pm to discuss the County's new air conditioning law. Council Member Tom Hucker will be a featured panelist.

Montgomery County's COVID-19 Rental Assistance Program is in its last three days. The application deadline is this Friday, June 5, 2020 at 2 pm. This program is specifically for renters in Montgomery County who have been impacted by COVID-19 and need rental assistance. The program will pay up three (3) months for a maximum subsidy of \$500. More information is located on the Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC) website.

### **CityTV Wins Award for Overall Excellence!**

Here is the news release on the Award:

June 1, 2020. Takoma Park City TV received a 2020 Hometown Media Award from the Alliance for Community Media Foundation. The awards program was established to honor and promote community media and local cable programs that are distributed on Public, Educational and Governmental (PEG) access cable television channels.

City TV won in the \$300,000-\$650,000 category the Overall Excellence in Government programming, awarded to the overall production of the channel. "This is the best award we could win," says Alvaro Calabia, production manager for City TV. He believes that "they have appreciated the diversity of programs we produce and how we try to reach all demographics in the City. Beside English and Spanish, in 2019 we produced shows in Amharic, Haitian Creole, and French. We also collaborated with the Thunderbolts to produce our first baseball games ever, and we have rooted deeper our relation with Takoma Radio, WOWD. We have a lot of partners in Takoma Park responsible for the award." You can see City TV programs in their YouTube page at <https://www.youtube.com/TakomaParkTV>

Each year, a panel of judges evaluates over a thousand entries based on several factors including subject, experience and budget. Awards are then presented to the most creative

programs that address community needs, develop diverse community involvement, challenge conventional commercial television formats and move viewers to experience television in a different way. Proceeds from the awards program are used exclusively for facilitating, preserving and promoting education in community media.

"The Hometown Media Awards celebrate both the excellence of work and the diversity of media that appears on community channels being produced around the country. The ACM Foundation is proud of their achievement and of how they represent their communities in their work," said Mike Wassenaar, president & CEO, Alliance for Community Media.

Congratulations CityTV Staff!