



City of Takoma Park

## **City Manager Comments**

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### **Report for City Council Meeting of February 5, 2020**

#### ***Information to Share***

##### **Census Jobs, Census Advocacy**

Having an accurate Census in Takoma Park is extremely important for local and federal elected representation, for adequate funding for services, and for knowing who we are as a community and what we need. Takoma Park is expected to be undercounted - as it has been before - and we want to upend that expectation! We have a whole advocacy plan to encourage residents to complete the Census in March and April, and we have received a grant of \$7,500 from the State of Maryland to help carry out that plan. We will be organizing complete the form events and the Council of Governments is endorsing a “Take a Break, Take the Census!” effort to encourage employers to allow some time for employees to complete the Census. Thanks as well to our City Councilmembers for your work getting the word out through public service announcements, etc. It all helps!

Another way to help get a good Census count is to have local residents get Census jobs. A Census job recruiter will be in the Computer Center rotunda during February: Wednesdays from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm and Saturdays from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Please drop by if you are interested in working for the Census!

##### **Will Jawando to Visit our Library**

Will Jawando has made a commitment as part of his County Councilmember position to visit every public library in Montgomery County. He will be visiting our Takoma Park Library next Wednesday, February 12, from 6:00-7:30 pm, right before the City Council meeting. It will be a nice date to visit as there is a special children’s book program at 7:00 pm that night. City Councilmembers are encouraged to join Councilmember Jawando during his visit. We are very excited to show him all that is special about our library and to show our exciting plans for the future!

##### **Update on Possible Meter Changes, 7300 Block of Carroll Avenue**

A meeting with owners of businesses that are located in the 7300 block of Carroll Avenue was held on Monday evening. The sense of the attendees was that no changes were needed, particularly as parking demands have lessened recently. Several business owners could not attend, so they will be contacted by the Executive Director of the Old Takoma Business Association and information from the meeting shared with them. Public comments on proposed changes are due by February 12. If no substantially different comments are received by that date, only one change will be

made and that is the conversion of one or two spaces to Accessible parking spaces to meet ADA requirements.

### **Novel Coronavirus Briefing**

A briefing was given the Council of Government Chief Administrative Officers Committee today on the Novel Coronavirus, spreading rapidly through China. The major takeaway is that spread of the virus is being monitored, but that the risk in the United States remains low. The most important message for the public is to take standard flu precautions, including good hand hygiene and cough etiquette. The various departments of health websites are helpful and are updated as new information becomes available. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention information on the Novel Coronavirus can be found at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV)

### **City Staff are Very Busy!**

While Takoma Park staff work very hard most of the time, the work level is very high right now and will continue through April. We are having internal budget meetings, are scheduling meetings to review proposals (such as those for the Takoma Park Recreation Center community engagement initiative), and we are in the hiring process for several positions. Summer Recreation program registration has been heavy and there has been a lot of work required for Council agenda items as well. Several key staff positions are vacant or the selected employee has not yet started in the new position yet, so that has made the workload heavier this year. As always, if there is difficulty getting information from City staff, please contact me directly and note that there has been a problem.