



City of Takoma Park

City Manager Robert DiSpirito

HCD:

- The County Council Committee on Planning, Housing and Parks finished their third and final work session on the Minor Master Plan on Monday, March 4, 2024. The County Council will review the plan later in March. The City website has links to the PHP video and staff reports.
 - Link: <https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/housing-and-community-development/planning-and-community-development/minor-master-plan/>
- The Takoma Park Tenant Survey is now live. Renters are encouraged to complete the survey, which should take 5-10 minutes to complete and will help inform City policies and programs. A link to the survey will be included in tomorrow's City Manager's Comments posted on the website.
 - Link: <https://takomaparkmd.gov/news-alert/the-city-launches-a-new-tenant-survey/>
- Staff successfully defended a Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (COLTA) Order in court and will continue to work with the City attorney's office to protect the rights of tenants who seek relief from the Commission.
- On March 5, 2024 the request for proposal concerning the Houston Avenue Stormwater Treatment Project was posted to the City website. The deadline is 2:00 pm on April 4, 2024. Please see the link in tomorrow's posted Comments for more information.
 - Link: https://documents.takomaparkmd.gov/services/Bids-and-Contracts/RFP_HCD_2024_03_05_Houston_Avenue_Stormwater.pdf
- Next Thursday, March 14th from 7:30 until 9:30 pm, the Takoma Park Arts Series is hosting "Takoma Arts: Interfaith Comedy Show", here in the City Auditorium. In an age of polarization and angry debate, the comedians of Interfaith Comedy are sharing laughs with a side of understanding about various religions. Five comedians from different religious backgrounds will share their talents in a free stand-up show. No tickets or reservations are required, but donations will be accepted.

PW:

- Please join the upcoming Go Solar TkPk Event on Tuesday, March 12, 2024 7:00-9:00 PM in the City Auditorium

This info session will educate all residents—both renters and homeowners, about obtaining solar energy for their home. It will feature details on the upcoming solar co-op campaign with Solar United Neighbors, offer information on community solar from Neighborhood Sun, and information on clean energy options overall. This will be an interactive event for anyone interested in, thinking about, or planning for solar.

This is a free event, Registration is not required, but encouraged. An option to join the event online is also available. A link will be posted with tomorrow's Comments.

And thank you to Councilmember Gibson for serving as a panelist for this event.



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City Manager:

- In the weeks since I started I have, among many other things, observed and assessed what I believe would be the most productive executive administrative structure that will most effectively serve the Mayor and Council, this organization, and our residents. Therefore, I wish to announce publicly that it is my intention to proceed immediately with a two-deputy city manager structure. Mr. David Eubanks will assist me with externally-facing City departments and activities, and Mr. Andrew Bolduc will focus on internal department and support activities. We can all be proud of their excellent service this past year, and I'm excited about how we three will be working together as a team.
- I also wish to announce that I will be promoting Mr. Ira Kowler to the role of permanent director of Housing & Community Development. Ira has performed very well this past year in the acting HCD director role, while still covering his economic development duties. He has the enthusiastic support of his department staff, works quite well with the Senior Leadership Team, and has earned this opportunity. His knowledge of planning, housing, and economic development in particular, coupled with his productivity, will continue to serve us well. He will report to Deputy City Manager Eubanks.
- Employee Highlights:
 - Recreation Department: We would like to highlight the exemplary work from Haven Rhodd, Teen Manager within the Recreation Department. She has stepped up to cover shifts in the teen lounge during the absence of part-time staff to ensure the teens have a safe place to go after school each day. Her dedication and hard work did not go unnoticed; we appreciate her for going above and beyond to ensure that the teen lounge continues to operate smoothly while also meeting deadlines for her general tasks. Her commitment to residents and especially teens is truly commendable, and we are grateful to have such a dedicated employee on staff. Thank you for your flexibility, your willingness to take on extra shifts, and for always putting our teens first. Thank you once again for your outstanding work, Haven!
 - Finance Department: We would like to bring our Accounting Supervisor, Kiros Alemseged, to your attention due to his exceptional performance and dedication to our City since 2006 when he joined our department as an Accounting Assistant, then steadily climbed the ranks to Accounting Supervisor, which he attained in 2015. Throughout his tenure, Kiros has consistently demonstrated outstanding commitment to his work and has provided exemplary customer service to both internal and external stakeholders.

His dedication to his role is evident in his willingness to always go above and beyond to assist others. Kiros has maintained a positive and approachable demeanor, even on the toughest of days, always greeting colleagues and clients with a smile. His calm demeanor and unwavering professionalism have significantly contributed to maintaining a positive work environment within the finance team.

Kiros's primary responsibilities include overseeing daily payment reconciliations across multiple systems, including three credit card systems and the cashiering system. Additionally, he plays a crucial role in managing payroll and tax payments. He supervises



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three staff members within the finance team and serves as the go-to person for all daily activities, including accounts receivable and cashiering.

Even amidst the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, Kiros has remained dedicated and hardworking, often going the extra mile to ensure that essential financial operations continue seamlessly.

In recognition of his exceptional performance, dedication, and unwavering commitment to serving the City and its residents, we commend Kiros Alemseged for his outstanding contributions.