



CITY OF TAKOMA PARK

City Manager Comments

Report for City Council Meeting of November 7, 2018

Information to Share

City of Takoma Park Closed Monday, November 12 for Veterans Day

City of Takoma Park offices and facilities will be closed on Monday for Veterans Day. The Police Department is always open for emergency services.

Cell Antenna Item Moved to Next Week

The goal of the City's proposed regulations on small cell antennas is to protect the City of Takoma Park from unregulated installation of small cell antennas in our rights of way. The FCC's order, "Streamlining Deployment of Next Generation Wireless Infrastructure Declaratory Ruling and Third Report and Order," goes into effect on January 14, 2019. Criteria regarding location, placement, aesthetics and fees that are not in place before an application is received would not likely be adhered to and could be challenged. We are not legally able to bar the antennas. The County's provisions under discussion apply to private property in Takoma Park but do not apply in the City's right of way where many of these antennas are likely to be placed. The City Code's current provisions regarding permits for activity in the right of way do not directly address these structures or attachments and have little in the way of criteria that would address location, placement, aesthetics, notification process or fees. The City strongly opposes the FCC's preemption of the City's authority over its rights of way, and we are glad there are lawsuits filed against the FCC action. However, in order to have any way to respond to an application for these antennas at the present time, we need to have criteria in place.

The discussion of preparing for small cell antenna applications was raised by me several years ago and was mentioned in my City Manager Comments in February 2017. The Maryland Municipal League has been discussing this matter for the last several years as well. The City Attorney was directed to prepare draft legislation to protect Takoma Park and presented proposed language on October 24, 2018. There were a number of questions raised and there is still some investigation being done, but there is also a sense of urgency to put measures into place to give Takoma Park some leverage and to protect the City and residents from cell towers being placed with no criteria in place. If adopted, the Code language can be changed if actions at higher levels take place that would affect Takoma Park in a positive way, but at the current time, we have very little authority or criteria to control location, placement or aesthetics of these antennas.

The agenda item pertaining to the City's regulation of the installation of cell antennas has been moved from tonight to next week to allow for consideration of recently-learned information and to allow Mayor Stewart and Councilmember Smith to be present for the discussion.

New Deputy Police Chief Selected

We are pleased to announce that Antonio Williams has accepted an offer to serve as the Deputy Police Chief of the City of Takoma Park. Mr. Williams is a 31-year veteran of law enforcement. He spent 20-years with the Baltimore City Police Department, where he retired as the Chief of the Detective Division. Mr. Williams also served as the Chief of Police for three law enforcement agencies; the Baltimore City School Police (2005-2007), the University of Baltimore, Baltimore County (2007-2009), and the University of Maryland, Baltimore (2010-2017). He holds an Associate's degree in Law Enforcement from the Community College of Baltimore, a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Baltimore, a Master of

Science degree in Management from Johns Hopkins University, and is currently a candidate for a Master of Business Administration from the University of Maryland, University College, and a Master of Divinity from the Capital Seminary and Graduate School. He is also a 2005 graduate of the FBI National Academy.

Mr. Williams stood out among an excellent field of candidates for the Takoma Park Police Deputy Chief position, performing very well in each step of the rigorous selection process. Mr. Williams is an experienced, community-oriented executive with a proven track record of strategic crime reduction and civic engagement in law enforcement.

"I am honored to be selected as the Deputy Chief of Police of the Takoma Park Police Department," said Mr. Williams when asked for comment. "This is a dream come true. I am excited and looking forward to working with the City of Takoma Park to improve the quality of life in the community."

Mr. Williams will report for duty on November 13, 2018.

Captain Tyrone Collington Retirement

After 20 years of service, Captain Tyrone "Tye" Collington has announced his retirement. Next week will be his last week on duty. He has accepted a new position as the Deputy Chief of the Bladensburg Police Department. We thank Tye for his service and wish him well in his future endeavors!

Fiscal Year 2018 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

Maryland State law requires that every general purpose local government publish, within six months of the close of each fiscal year, a complete set of audited financial statements. The financial statement of the City of Takoma Park is audited by CohnReznick, LLC, an independent auditor. The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and the Uniform Financial Reports (UFR), completed on October 31, have been submitted to the Legislative Services Department and the U.S. Census Bureau, as required.

The [FY 2018 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report is online](#) on the Finance Department webpage. Once again, we have received a positive report from the auditors. The Council will receive a presentation on the audit and the Police Retirement Plan on November 28th.

A good amount of the work for the CAFR is done by Finance Director Susan Cheung. The Transmittal Letter, Management's Discussion and Analysis, and the statistical section is the responsibility of City staff, and the remaining work done by our consultants and the auditors requires a lot of back-and-forth with City staff. All told, work on the CAFR is a multi-month effort. I commend Susan for an excellent job!

One thing to remember when reviewing the CAFR is that it is for last fiscal year, so all of the work that Council did on the budget last spring is not reflected in the numbers in the document. While the CAFR is not easy reading, it is extremely important documentation of our financial activities. The tables at the back of the document are helpful, and often the first place I look for answers.

Bus Shelters to be Installed along New Hampshire Avenue

After a lengthy negotiation and SHA permitting process, the Housing and Community Development Department is pleased to announce that three new bus shelters will be installed along the New Hampshire Avenue corridor in Ward 3 and Ward 6 in the next three months, weather permitting. Shelters will be located on the western side of New Hampshire Avenue at Poplar and Sheridan Avenues and on the east side of New Hampshire Avenue at Larch

Avenue. The shelters will be similar in appearance to those located throughout the corridor and will be installed by Signal Outdoor Advertising, LLC at no cost to the City.

Welcome New Grants Coordinator

The City is pleased to welcome our new Grants Coordinator, Jennifer Hale to the Housing and Community Development Department. Jennifer brings over six years of public and private grants administration experience to the City. We look forward to working with her as the Department continues to work to increase the accessibility of the City's grants programs and the capacity of local nonprofit organizations.

Veterans Day Event

The Police Department will be hosting a Veterans Days event at the Takoma Park Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 350, 6420 Orchard Ave, Takoma Park, MD on November 11 from 1-5:00pm to honor and celebrate those who have served. There will be activities, food and much more. All are invited to attend.

Police Department Items

No Shave November

The Takoma Park Police Department is participating in [#NoShaveNovember](#), which began on November 1 and runs through November 30. It's our first year of official participation and we will be donating all funds raised to Grow & Give to end Prostate Cancer. Please consider supporting the team by making a tax-deductible contribution today! More details here:

<http://support.zerocancer.org/goto/takomaparkpd>.

Winter Coat Drive

Just a reminder that beginning this week the Takoma Park Police Department, in partnership with the Takoma Park Adventist Church, is collecting clean, gently used warm coats in any size. The coats will be donated to people in need. We will also accept clean, gently used gloves/mittens and scarves. A large box will be in the lobby of the Takoma Park Police Department until Friday, December 14, at 4:00 pm. The Takoma Park Police Department will ensure that donations are given to the church immediately after the drive.

Stop the Bleed Training

As discussed at last week's Council meeting, the Emergency Preparedness is offering one-hour courses on how you can control severe bleeding due to an accident or intentional harm. The techniques taught will show various ways to control severe bleeding.

Classes will be held in the Azalea Room of the Community Center at the follow dates and time:

- November 07 7:30-9:00 pm
- November 17 10:30am-noon
- December 15 2:30 to 4:00 pm

To reserve a seat at the training, complete the [application](#). Classes are open to Takoma Park residents, 20 students per class, and you must be 16 years of age or older.

National Prescription Drug Take Back Turnout!

Takoma Park Police collected 276 pounds of medication for the three month period capped off by the Nationwide Prescription Drug Take Back Day on October 27. Thank you to the Police Department staff who run this campaign together with the Drug Enforcement Agency each year. Don't forget we also offer a drug drop box in our lobby 24/7!

America's Favorite Crossing Guard Contest

America's Favorite Crossing Guard contest is back for the third year. Residents are encouraged to nominate their crossing guard to be "America's Favorite Crossing Guard" which can be done using the form at the following link: <https://www.safekids.org/crossing-guard>. The link also contains important information about the process.

Kudos

Kudos to the **Recreation Department** staff for their work preparing for hosting the Monster Bash. When the weather appeared like it wasn't going to cooperate, they quickly made adjustments to the plan and – as evidenced by the crowds – effectively got the word out. Fun was had by all despite the change in venue! A special shout out to **John Webster**, who spearheaded planning for the event.

A huge kudos is also due to **Daryl Braithwaite** for the countless hours and tireless efforts she put in to make LED streetlights throughout the City a reality. It is truly an historic achievement for the City, and we couldn't have done it without Daryl's dedication, diplomacy, and expertise.

As noted above, I wanted to give kudos to **Susan Cheung**, Finance Director, and the **Finance Department** team for all their hard work preparing for the submission of the CAFR!

Hiring Update

We are currently advertising and/or interviewing for a number of positions Communications Specialist (formerly Media Specialist), Economic Development Manager, Grants Coordinator, Contract CDL Driver, Police Officer, and Police Intern.

My Schedule

In November, I will be out of town on Friday, November 16 and plan to take the Wednesday before Thanksgiving off, but will be in town through the holiday weekend.

In December, I will be out of town Thursday, December 6 through Saturday, December 15. I will be in town through the Christmas and New Year's holidays.