



# CITY OF TAKOMA PARK

## City Manager Comments

Report for City Council Meeting of February 14, 2018

### *Information to Share*

#### **Constant Yield**

The City received its 2018 Constant Yield Tax Rate Certification document today from the State of Maryland. Currently, the City's real property tax rate is 53.48 cents per \$100 assessment. That tax rate is expected to result in revenue of \$12,135,995 this fiscal year. With an increase in the net assessable real property base of approximately 5.4%, the tax rate needed to get the same amount of revenue next year would be 50.75 cents, a reduction of 2.73 cents. If the property rate were kept at 53.48 cents, the City's tax revenue on the larger net assessable base would be \$12,788,660, an increase of \$652,666.

#### **Council Intern**

We recently conducted interviews for the new Council Intern position. The interview panel included Mayor Kate Stewart, Councilmember Peter Kovar, Deputy City Manager Jason Damweber, and City Clerk Jessie Carpenter. The group selected Evan Gittelman, a recent Virginia Tech graduate who majored in Public and Urban Affairs and minored in Political Science, to serve in the position. Jason will serve as Evan's immediate supervisor, essentially as a liaison between Council and the Intern. To that end, please let Jason know if there are any particular research projects you have an interest in Evan working on during his internship.

Evan's first day will be February 20<sup>th</sup>. Once he starts, please be on the lookout for an introductory correspondence from him, which will include a request to meet with each of you to learn more about what you do, issues and opportunities facing your wards, and your priorities for the City.

#### **Dorothy's Woods Update**

HUD has agreed to release its lien on the City's Dorothy's Woods property. This leaves one remaining encumbrance on Dorothy's Woods, a lien held by Fairview Investment Fund. The City will continue to take every step possible to preserve Dorothy's Woods and will now work to obtain the release of the remaining encumbrance.

#### **Montgomery County Highways and Transitways Master Plan**

Transportation planners are reviewing and revising the County's Master Plan of Highways and Transitways, an effort that classifies each Montgomery County road in the transportation network, in the first comprehensive update to the plan since 1955. The plan will update the road network with current classifications, incorporate road changes, and align it with the County Road Code, which was comprehensively updated in 2007 and in 2014. The update will consolidate all roadway amendments that have been approved as part of Master Plans as well as limited functional Master Plan of Highways amendments. The new plan will also include transitways, rail stations, and other transit centers. To reflect the greater scope of the plans, the name will be changed to the Master Plan of Highways and Transitways.

<http://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/transportation/highway-planning/master-plan-of-highways-and-transitways/>

The Master Plan of Highways and Transitways Public Hearing will take place on February 15, 2018 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Montgomery County Planning Department Headquarters ([8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland](#)). The public is also invited to submit comments about the Master Plan of Highways and Transitways via email to [mcp-chair@mncppc.org](mailto:mcp-chair@mncppc.org).

### **Request by Crossroads Farmers Market**

Following up on the request by the managers of the Crossroads Farmers Market to open their market earlier in the spring, a Resolution is planned to come forward in mid-March to the Council to change the dates for using Anne Street. However, the Market managers would like to begin publicizing their dates for this spring before the Council votes on the Resolution. There is no concern by City staff about the earlier start date. If there is a sense that the Council is likely to approve the Resolution, I can let the Market managers know that they can proceed with the publication of the new dates, recognizing there is still a risk that the Council may not approve the Resolution. Please let me know if there are any concerns.

### ***Kudos***

Kudos to our Facilities staff and Information Systems staff for their hard work completing third-floor renovations over the past six weeks. The work was done almost entirely in-house, which saved the City a great deal of money, especially given the high quality of the work.

### ***Hiring Update***

We are currently advertising for a number of positions, including Police Dispatcher, Police Officer, Sanitation Driver, Housing and Community Services Intern, and Contract CDL Driver.

### ***City Management Schedules***

Deputy City Manager Jason Damweber will be on vacation February 15 – 23, getting a short break before the budget gauntlet is fully underway. From now through early April, staff will be in full budget preparation mode, so it may be more difficult to respond to non-time-sensitive requests. Please have patience as we get through this difficult time of the year.