



CITY OF TAKOMA PARK

City Manager Comments

Report for City Council Meeting of October 17, 2018

Information to Share

NDC and TPSS Co-op Reach Agreement

After several weeks of mediated negotiations, NDC and the Co-op have agreed to a set of reasonable accommodations to the business operations of the Co-op before, during and after construction of the new Takoma Junction project. A statement from the City, a joint statement from NDC and the Co-op, and links to the Terms of Cooperation Agreement and Full Cooperation Agreement are available on the City's website:

<https://takomaparkmd.gov/uncategorized/neighborhood-development-company-and-tpss-co-op-reach-agreement/>

1100 Eastern

Part of the City's statement referenced above acknowledges that we are aware of the situation pertaining to 1100 Eastern, an affiliate of NDC. 1100 Eastern purchased a property in DC to develop affordable housing and, upon the sale closing, abruptly blocked access to the property's business tenants because of environmental hazards found on the site. Tenants did not receive prior notification. NDC provided a [statement](#) to the City regarding the issue and its officials met with the tenants last week to discuss the contamination, next steps, and compensation.

The City will continue to monitor the situation in DC involving 1100 Eastern, including continued discussions with NDC and DC government officials regarding the status. It is important to note that the project in Takoma Park differs from the project in DC in a number of ways. Most importantly, our project involves City-owned property and its development processes are pursuant to a Development Agreement and Ground Lease.

Community Survey Update

As of this week, the focus groups with residents who are African or Latin American immigrants have been wrapped up. National Research Center, the firm conducting the focus groups and survey, will be creating a summary report using transcriptions and notes from the sessions. In addition to these notes being provided to the City as part of the results of the survey, the feedback gathered may also inform some of the questions included in the final version of the survey. This part of the process took longer than expected, and we are eager to proceed with finalizing and distributing the survey. Please stay tuned!

Concerned about Safety During Traffic Stop?

We are aware of recent allegations involving a Prince George's County Police Officer raping a woman during a traffic stop in Prince George's County. Our officers are fully aware that while conducting traffic stops, violators may not immediately stop because of uncertainty or fear. If anyone being pulled over feels uncomfortable, we encourage them to safely drive to a populated area and call our Police Department number at 301-270-1100 or 911 to ensure the traffic stop is being properly reported by the officer through the police dispatcher. People being pulled over may also request that a second officer respond if they are uncomfortable. All of our traffic stops are required to be recorded by the officers' body worn cameras.

Hiring Update

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

We are conducting interviews for the Communications Specialist position this week and next.

Suzanne R. Ludlow, AICP CPM
City Manager, City of Takoma Park
SuzanneL@takomaparkmd.gov
301-891-7229