



City of Takoma Park

City Manager Comments

Report for City Council Meeting of January 29, 2020

Information to Share

Retirement Planned in June 2021

As Mayor Stewart noted at the beginning of the January 22 Council meeting, I plan to retire at the end of June 2021. Announcement of my planned retirement at this time allows for a smooth transition. Funds for a city manager search process can be included in the FY21 budget now being prepared, candidates for the next City Council can be aware that a city manager search will be a top priority and significant time commitment for the newly elected Council, and the search process can be underway by the Council while I am overseeing staff's preparation of the FY22 budget in the spring of 2021. Internally, all departments will continue to systematize information and processes so that work can continue as staff changes occur. I am hoping to hire a new deputy city manager within a month or so, and that person will know that part of their job is to assist in the smooth transition. By the time I retire I will have worked with the City of Takoma Park for over 27 years. It has truly been wonderful and I am honored to have been able to serve the City of Takoma Park.

Census Jobs

2020 Census is currently recruiting for thousands of jobs in the City of Takoma Park and Montgomery County. Apparently our area is identified as one that has a severe deficit of staff and so there is a strong push to hire people in the Takoma Park area. Full and part-time Census Takers and supervisor positions are available. No experience is necessary as Census 2020 will provide on the job training. Part-time hours range from 10-40 hours a week and the starting pay is \$29.50/hour. Full-time hours range from 30-40 hours a week and the starting pay is 32.50/hour. To apply go to <https://2020census.gov/en/jobs/how-to-apply.html>.

Visit to Businesses Affected by Purple Line Construction

On Monday, D20 Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins, Takoma Park City TV staff, TLCDA Executive Director Kayleigh Gunnoud and myself visited businesses affected by Purple Line Construction, primarily in the Takoma-Langley Crossroads area. Video from the discussions with business owners will be compiled to help make the case for financial assistance for these businesses. In business after business, revenue has been 30-40% lower in recent months due to the difficulty customers face in accessing the businesses. Staff layoffs and lower payments to vendors are leading to ricochet effects of the financial pain. Thank you to Delegate Wilkins for taking the time to visit the businesses and talk at length with the owners. It was very enlightening and we hope to share the information widely to get assistance from the counties and State of Maryland.



Solar Powered Pedestrian Crossing Signal to be Installed

Maryland State Highway Administration has notified the City that they plan to install a solar powered pedestrian crossing signal across Philadelphia Avenue at the Takoma Park Library. Installation will likely be in early summer.

Right of First Refusal Properties

When rental properties are placed for sale in the City of Takoma Park, the tenant(s), the City, and Montgomery County all have the opportunity to purchase the property under City and County law. The owner of the property must follow the applicable laws and provide notice. City staff ensure that the correct processes are followed and notices given. Staff also provide advice as to whether or not the City may wish to exercise its right to purchase the property. If a property looks like it might be appropriate for City purchase (guided by City policy and goals), information on the property will be shared with Council for a decision. Recently, the following property was determined to not meet the criteria for City purchase: 7502 Central Avenue (vacant single family home).

Corrective Map Amendment H-130

On January 28th, County Council passed the Corrective Map Amendment H-130 to correct technical errors in the zoning classifications impacting properties at 7201, 7211, 7221 Carroll Ave, 0 Columbia Ave and 0 Carroll Ave between Grant Avenue and Philadelphia Avenue in Takoma Park. CMA H-130 corrects the misaligned zoning boundaries affecting these properties. The boundary for the Takoma Park-East Silver Spring Overlay zone will also be adjusted to the corrected zoning boundaries. The changes will align the zoning with the County Council's intent and direction as outlined in the 2000 Takoma Park Master Plan and subsequent 2014 Zoning Ordinance Rewrite. https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20200128/20200128_8B.pdf

Takoma Park Arts Celebrates Black History Month

The City of Takoma Park's Takoma Park Arts cultural series is celebrating Black History Month in February with a wide range of events, including a lecture, film screening, and concert. The following events will be in the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium.

From Slavery to Freedom: A Black Union Soldier's Life Story

Lecture by Dianne Cross

February 6 at 7:30 p.m.

Free Event

A Night of Guitar Music with Yasmin Williams

February 7 at 8:00 p.m.

Free Event with \$10 Suggested Donation

Overlooked Films from the Civil Rights Movement

February 13 at 7:30 p.m.

Free Event