

# City of Takoma Park, Maryland

## Office of the City Council

Tel: (301) 891-7230

Fax: (301) 270-8794

[kates@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:kates@takomaparkmd.gov)



7500 Maple Avenue  
Takoma Park, MD 20912  
[www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov)

May 17, 2016

Dr. DeRionne Pollard  
President  
Montgomery College

Dear Dr. Pollard:

Thank you for meeting with us on April 27, and asking us to follow up with recommendations on a process for moving forward to ensure that the Takoma Park community is properly consulted concerning the College's construction plans on the Takoma Park-Silver Spring campus. Our hope is that in the near future we can come to an agreement on a process so we avoid any misunderstandings.

At our meeting, you invited us to submit a consultation proposal for the Math/Science Building project. As discussed, we believe that – in accordance with Montgomery County planning requirements and under the terms of the 2002 legal Agreement the College signed – consultation is required for both the Math/Science project, and the construction components of the Master Plan relating to the Takoma Park-Silver Spring campus.

Given the 2002 agreement, we propose and would like to discuss a collaborative consultation process that would begin at least six months before any Master Plan is submitted to the state for approval. For the current Master Plan, we propose a six month consultation period, to start as soon as we can jointly agree on the structure of such a process.

An effective way of structuring the consultation would be to schedule monthly meetings over the next six months with representatives of the Takoma Park City government, along with representatives of the County government and Historic Takoma, plus a small group of City residents participating in an advisory capacity. In addition, there should be several larger public meetings during this period. City staff as well as members of the City Council will be more than happy to help in organizing and publicizing the meetings. The topics to be considered would include:

- Planning for the future of the area, including ways of better connecting Takoma Park, Silver Spring and the College Campus to increase the vitality of these communities;
- proposed construction and renovation plans;
- sources of funding and financial impacts;
- opportunities for construction of College buildings in Silver Spring, including at the Burlington Avenue site owned by the College;
- building design elements;

- potential impacts on traffic (including bicycle and pedestrian traffic) and crime;
- protection of green space and trees;
- preservation of historic homes; and
- potential construction timetables and their impact on the neighborhood.

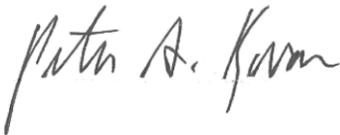
One option to pursue is having a third party mediator lead the discussions that take place under this approach. We also recommend that the City and the College continue regular meetings in the future to promote more neighborly relations and better communication.

The process outlined above would help ensure that the Takoma Park community has a meaningful opportunity to contribute to the College's planning process on matters that have a direct impact on residents and their daily lives as neighbors. We would appreciate your giving the proposal the fullest consideration, and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Kate Stewart  
Mayor, City of Takoma Park



Peter Kovar  
Councilmember, City of Takoma Park