

Final Push Ahead on Tax Duplication Fairness!

Thanks to a large-scale push by Montgomery County municipal leaders and residents, the County Council's Government Operations (GO) Committee recommended on Friday that the municipalities get the [municipal tax duplication](#) rebate amount they had been requesting for FY22 and put the processes in play to get fair rebates in FY23 and beyond. This is a tremendous win, but is only a recommendation to the full County Council. The full Council needs to approve the GO Committee recommendation and then Council President Tom Hucker needs to put the money in the Reconciliation document for final approval.

What is the amount recommended for FY22? GO Chair Nancy Navarro proposed adding \$5 million to the County Executive's proposed amount for tax duplication rebates. The \$5 million was divided into three amounts (\$2 million, \$1.5 million, \$1.5 million), in case a decision is made that the County cannot fully fund the entire \$5 million. The \$5 million would be divided among the County's municipalities; if the County fully funds the increase, the City of Takoma Park would receive an additional \$480,000.

What is the plan for FY23 and the following years? The next most important step is in determining a fair amount to be reimbursed for police services. The City of Takoma Park currently receives about \$4 million for police services, but that is based on an obsolete model of policing. Gaithersburg, Rockville and Chevy Chase Village get no money for their police services, because they do not have full-service police agencies. The County Code needs to be changed to allow rebates for shared services and the four jurisdictions with police departments need to negotiate with the County on a reasonable formula that would estimate what the County would spend if they provided all of the police services. Negotiations are to be concluded by this October so that the amounts can be in the FY23 budget. In addition to determining the formula for police services, a formula for park maintenance costs also needs to be developed.

What can you do to ensure that Takoma Park and the other Montgomery County municipalities get back all of the money that has been overpaid to the County?

First, thank the GO Committee Members, Chair Nancy Navarro and members Andrew Friedson and Sidney Katz! Send an email, reach out via social media, or handwrite a note. After many, many years, the GO Committee unanimously voted for a real and fair resolution to the tax duplication matter that has been discussed for decades. A special shout-out needs to go to Chair Navarro for actually putting the money on the table.

Second, reach out to the rest of the County Councilmembers and ask them to support the GO Committee's recommendation for the full amount of the money for FY22. The Council is likely to act next week on the recommendation.

Third, it's not real until it's in the budget! Contact Council President Tom Hucker and reinforce the importance of putting the entire additional \$5 million in the reconciliation budget. Again, send emails, tag on social media, and talk to him at the fish store or streetery. Let our officials know that you are watching their actions on this important issue of tax fairness.

So, send thanks to:

Councilmember.Navarro@montgomerycountymd.gov
Councilmember.Friedson@montgomerycountymd.gov
Councilmember.Katz@montgomerycountymd.gov

Urge approval of the GO Committee's recommendations to:

Councilmember.Albornoz@montgomerycountymd.gov

Councilmember.Glass@montgomerycountymd.gov

Councilmember.Jawando@montgomerycountymd.gov

Councilmember.Rice@montgomerycountymd.gov

Councilmember.Riemer@montgomerycountymd.gov

And, urge Council President Tom Hucker to put the \$5 million in the reconciliation budget:

Councilmember.Hucker@montgomerycountymd.gov