

# City of Takoma Park, Maryland

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*Suzanne R. Ludlow, City Manager*

May 24, 2019

Dear Councilmember Katz,

Thank you for your leadership on the municipal tax duplication issue. Now that the City of Takoma Park budget is completed, I have compiled the information that had previously been discussed about police services in Takoma Park, Rockville, Gaithersburg and Chevy Chase Village. I reviewed the information with the four Police Chiefs in the communities and they have updated the numbers from those they had previously provided. The information is attached.

Two next steps are recommended:

- Identify a representative from the Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD) who is knowledgeable about the County's police services vis-à-vis those of the four jurisdictions with police departments. The MCPD representative would review the information and, in collaboration with the municipal representatives, identify the MCPD districts or beats that are solely served by MCPD that have characteristics that are similar to the various municipalities.
- Draft language that allows a County payment to the three jurisdictions that share police services.

### *Background*

There are several approaches that have been considered in calculating a police rebate in past years, but a number of them do not reflect how modern policing is done. Most of the earlier formulas (including the 1999 MOU for the Takoma Park Police Rebate) relied only on calls for service. However, these calculations do not reflect proactive policing, crime analysis, traffic enforcement, community meetings and engagement, staffing at major events, emergency management/homeland security planning, etc.

A great deal of work has been done identifying and quantifying the individual services offered by the four departments and the extent to which they rely on or assist the Montgomery County Police Department. However, as mentioned above, the four municipal departments are very different. All of the municipalities except Takoma Park share policing services with MCPD. While the Chevy Chase Village Police Department is the primary first responder to most calls for service, there are few incidents reported that require MCPD assistance. Rockville has the County seat, court house, some facilities shared with MCPD, and a number of large events. Gaithersburg was rated the second most diverse city in the United States in 2018, also has large events and

does some different types of investigations than Rockville. Takoma Park is the only full-service police department, with no shared patrol by MCPD. All of the departments use Montgomery County for the Police Academy or for some specialized functions (eg, accident reconstruction). Conversely, the work of the municipal departments assists MCPD in community policing, investigations, warrants, and other shared services.

In a review of possible approaches to tax duplication rebates prepared by the Office of Legislative Oversight a number of years ago, several options prorated expenditures by population or by land area. We appreciated that the OLO saw merit in providing police rebate funds to the three municipalities with shared police services. However, proration by population or land area alone would be inaccurate. The four municipalities are in densely populated urban areas of the County. Using MCPD expenditures divided by total Montgomery County's population or land area would undercount the greater expenditures that MCPD uses for police services in the more urban areas of the County.

**For this reason, the recommendation from the municipalities is that County geographical areas outside of, but similar to, those in the four jurisdictions be identified so that the amount of funds spent by Montgomery County on police services can be calculated and prorated to the municipalities. In identifying the way to prorate the funds, population, land use/area, types of services provided by the municipalities, and calls for service can all be considered.**

The four Chiefs of Police have evaluated and estimated the percentage of policing services each municipal department provides. There are many differences among the four departments, in areas such as hours of operation, services provided and types of incidents requiring police response. To help simplify the formula-devising process (or to help gauge accuracy and reasonableness of a more complicated formula), the percentages provided are:

- Chevy Chase Village – 85%
- Gaithersburg – 50%
- Rockville – 75%
- Takoma Park – 100%

If there is agreement on these or adjusted percentages, then, after prorating funds by similar population or land area size, the payments to the municipalities can be multiplied by the service percentage. For example, if the amount that the County would pay to solely provide police to a geographic area similar to Gaithersburg is calculated, that amount would then be multiplied by 50% to determine the amount that Gaithersburg should receive as a police rebate.

We look forward to sitting down with County staff to discuss this proposed approach. I can be reached at [SuzanneL@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:SuzanneL@takomaparkmd.gov) or 301-891-7229.

Sincerely,



Suzanne R. Ludlow  
City Manager

**Information on the Four Montgomery County Municipalities that Provide Police Services  
May 24, 2019**

|   | Chevy Chase Village   | Gaithersburg  | Rockville    | Takoma Park  |
|---|---|---|--------------|--|
| <b>Profile of Municipality</b>                  |   |   |              |  |
| Population (ACS info from 2013-2017)            | 1,984   | 67,417  | 66,420       | 17,643   |
| % Under 18 years old                            | 26.6  | 23.8  | 21.4         | 23.9   |
| % 65 and older                                  | 23.1  | 11.4  | 15.4         | 10.4   |
| Race: % White only                              | 94.5  | 48.2  | 57.9         | 49.2   |
| Foreign Born                                    | 13.4  | 39.0  | 35.5         | 30.8   |
| Median HH Income                                | \$250,000+  | \$85,773  | \$100,436    | \$87,115   |
| % sf residential detached                       | 99.3  | 20.2  | 43.4         | 51.4   |
| % sf residential attached                       | 0.7   | 32.0  | 16.6         | 1.1  |
| Median value, owner-occupied units              | \$1,605,500   | \$380,300   | \$498,200    | \$544,200  |
| % mf residential                                | n/a   | 47.7  | 40.0         | 47.4   |
| % renter-occupied                               | 6.1   | 47.8  | 42.6         | 46.0   |
| Median rent                                     | \$3,500+  | \$1,634   | \$1,847      | \$1,141  |
| Land area                                       | 0.4 sq mi   | 10 sq mi  | 13.5 sq. mi. | 2.4 sq mi  |
| % residential land                              | 95  | 39.7  | 49.3         | 70   |
| % commercial land                               | 3   | 17.6  | 7.2          | 9  |
| Unique elements with impacts on police services | Borders District of Columbia; major commuter route bisects the municipality | 13 mi from DC; in 2018, the 2 <sup>nd</sup> most diverse city in US | County seat  | Bounded by District of Columbia and Prince George's County |
| <b>Police Dept Services</b>                     |   |   |              |  |
| Est % Svcs Provided by City vis a vis County    | 85  | 50  | 75           | 100  |
| % First Response Calls                          | 97  | 55  | 73           | 100  |

**Information on the Four Montgomery County Municipalities that Provide Police Services  
May 24, 2019**

|  | Chevy Chase Village | Gaithersburg  | Rockville      | Takoma Park   |
|--|---------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| Police Budget                            | \$2.4 million       | \$9.7 million | \$12.7 million | \$9.7 million |
| County Rebate Amount                     | n/a                 | n/a           | n/a            | \$3.8 million |
| # Sworn Officers                         | 11                  | 59            | 62             | 43            |
| # Other Police Staff                     | 6                   | 10            | 33             | 24.45         |
| Patrol Services                          | YES                 | YES           | YES            | YES           |
| Investigations                           |                     |               |                |               |
| -Homicide                                | NO                  | NO            | NO             | YES           |
| -Rape                                    | NO                  | NO            | NO             | YES           |
| -Robbery                                 | NO                  | YES           | NO             | YES           |
| -Assault                                 | YES                 | YES           | YES            | YES           |
| -Burglary                                | NO                  | YES           | YES            | YES           |
| -Larceny                                 | YES                 | YES           | YES            | YES           |
| -Auto Theft                              | NO                  | NO            | YES            | YES           |
| Street Crimes                            | NO                  | YES           | YES            | YES           |
| Traffic Unit                             | NO                  | YES           | YES            | YES           |
| Town Center Unit / Community Action Team | NO                  | YES           | YES            | n/a           |
| Community Outreach Officer               | YES                 | YES           | YES            | YES           |
| School Resource Officer                  | NO                  | YES           | YES            | n/a           |
| Crossing Guards                          | NO                  | NO            | NO             | YES           |
| Member Drug Task Force                   | NO                  | NO            | YES            | YES           |
| Crime Analyst                            | YES                 | YES           | YES            | YES           |
| Victim Advocate                          | NO                  | NO            | YES            | YES           |
| Communication Center                     | YES                 | NO            | YES            | YES           |
| Canine Unit                              | NO                  | YES           | YES            | YES           |

**Information on the Four Montgomery County Municipalities that Provide Police Services  
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|                                       | <b>Chevy Chase<br/>Village</b> | <b>Gaithersburg</b> | <b>Rockville</b> | <b>Takoma Park</b> |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Parking Enforcement Unit              | NO                             | YES                 | YES              | YES                |
| Photo Enforcement Unit<br>– Red Light | NO                             | NO                  | YES              | n/a                |
| Speed Camera Unit                     | YES                            | YES                 | YES              | YES                |
| Property & Evidence Clerk             | YES                            | YES                 | YES              | YES                |
| Records/MCR                           | YES                            | YES                 | YES              | YES                |
| ERT/SWAT                              | NO                             | NO                  | NO               | YES                |
| Special Event Staffing / Overtime     | NO                             | YES                 | YES              | YES                |
| 24 Hour Front Desk                    | YES                            | NO                  | NO               | YES                |
| 24 Hour Dispatch                      | YES                            | NO                  | NO               | YES                |