

Regular Meeting

Agenda Item #	11
Meeting Date	June 22, 2009
Prepared By	Suzanne Ludlow, <i>sl</i> Deputy City Manager
Approved By	Barbara B. Matthews, <i>BBM</i> City Manager

Discussion Item	Resolution Authorizing Submission of Legislative Action Request to the Maryland Municipal League
Background	<p>Each year the Maryland Municipal League (MML) solicits legislative proposals from its member municipalities. Requests are to be submitted by June 26 this year for consideration by the MML Legislative Committee in the summer, and, at the fall conference, by the municipalities as a whole.</p> <p>On June 1, 2009, the City Council discussed submitting Legislative Action Requests (LARs) on the issue of a charge of five cents on disposable bags from retail stores and on encouraging the creation of additional municipalities and the expansion of municipalities throughout Maryland.</p>
Policy	The City Council pursues legislation in the best interest of the City of Takoma Park.
Fiscal Impact	n/a
Attachments	Draft resolution; draft LARs.
Recommendation	Approve resolution.
Special Consideration	

Introduced By:

DRAFT DRAFT DRAFT

RESOLUTION #2009 - _____

**Resolution Authorizing Transmittal of Legislative Action Requests
To the Maryland Municipal League for Consideration**

WHEREAS, the Takoma Park City Council is charged with setting policy and pursuing legislative changes in the best interests of the Takoma Park community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Takoma Park is an active member of the Maryland Municipal League; and

WHEREAS, the Maryland Municipal League pursues legislative changes that would benefit Maryland municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the Council urges the protection of the environment by encourage the use of durable and reusable shopping bags; and

WHEREAS, the Council sees a benefit in encouraging the creation of, and physical expansion of, municipalities in Maryland, so as to better distribute resources and services across the State.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Takoma Park authorizes the City Manager to transmit Legislative Action Request forms regarding encourage reusable shopping bags and encouraging the creation and expansion of municipalities in the State.

ADOPTED THIS XXX DAY OF JUNE, 2009.

ATTEST:

Jessie Carpenter,

City Clerk

2010 MML LEGISLATIVE REQUEST

Name of Municipality, Chapter or Department submitting request: City of Takoma Park

Contact Person / Title: Suzanne Ludlow, Deputy City Manager

Address/City/State/Zip: 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912

Telephone number: (Work) 301-891-7229 *E-mail:* SuzanneL@takomagov.org

Please complete this form in its entirety. Attach additional sheets, if necessary, as well as documents related to your request. FORM MUST BE RETURNED NO LATER THAN Friday, June 26, 2009.

INTRODUCTION

- 1. Describe the problem or situation the request is intended to address:* Plastic shopping bags are found as litter across the State. Litter degrades the appearance of communities and municipalities must devote resources to picking up litter.
- 2. Describe the requested legislation:* Establish a charge of five cents for retail shopping bags not provided by the consumer. (Similar to legislation recently enacted in Washington, D.C.)
- 3. Describe how the requested legislation would remedy the problem:* Consumers would be more likely to use durable, reusable shopping bags, thus reducing the number of disposable bags in the waste stream.
- 4. The proposed legislation would address:* _____ Only your municipality
_____ Only municipalities in your county _____ Only statewide municipalities
__X__ All counties and municipalities in the entire state
- 5. Would the proposed remedy have a significant fiscal impact on your municipality?* No.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 1. Could the problem be resolved by something other than a new law, i.e., action by another level of government or changes in administrative procedures?* A similar federal law could be passed, but is unlikely.
- 2. If administrative remedies have already been pursued, what were they and what was the outcome?* N/A
- 3. What other state and/or local agencies, if any, would be affected by this proposal?* The

2010 MML LEGISLATIVE REQUEST

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Telephone number: (Work) 301-891-7229 *E-mail:* SuzanneL@takomagov.org

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INTRODUCTION

1. *Describe the problem or situation the request is intended to address:* Municipalities represent only a small portion of the State of Maryland. Smaller jurisdictions are better able to address local needs than county or state governments. Municipal tax duplication issues could be clarified by the clear delineation of responsibilities between county and municipal governments.

2. *Describe the requested legislation:* Provide incentives for the creation and/or expansion of municipalities. Reduce legal impediments to such creation and expansion.

3. *Describe how the requested legislation would remedy the problem:* Having larger areas covered by municipalities would give municipal governments increased political weight, as well as compel a rational division of responsibilities in serving the public.

4. *The proposed legislation would address:* Only your municipality
 Only municipalities in your county Only statewide municipalities
 All counties and municipalities in the entire state

5. *Would the proposed remedy have a significant fiscal impact on your municipality?* Depending on the delineation of responsibilities, the City of Takoma Park's issues regarding municipal tax duplication could be resolved.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. *Could the problem be resolved by something other than a new law, i.e., action by another level of government or changes in administrative procedures?* County governments could encourage and facilitate the creation and/or expansion of municipalities.

2. *If administrative remedies have already been pursued, what were they and what was the*

