

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND
(ADOPTED 1/10/05)**

WORKSESSION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Thursday, February 26, 2004

OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Mayor Porter	City Manager Finn
Councilmember Elrich	Community and Government Liaison Ludlow
Councilmember Mizeur	
Councilmember Seamens	
Councilmember Williams	

OFFICIALS ABSENT:

Councilmember Austin-Lane
Councilmember Barry

The City Council convened at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building Council Chambers, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland, for a discussion of FY05 Council Goals.

WORKSESSION

Councilmembers' suggestions or comments are summarized after each of the goals / priorities.

Communications

Ms. Mizeur - Youth Council.

Mr. Williams for Mr. Barry - customer service surveys.

Ms. Mizeur- both internal and external communication efforts.

Ms. Porter - broadening the number of groups involved. Focused a bit more - youth, people who are harder to get to, including low income people and ethnic minorities.

Mr. Williams - when get information out, it raises expectations, is a moving target.

Mr. Seamens- what can we afford to do?

Ms. Porter - we want to reach out to ethnic groups--at least one effort to each existing group.

Mr. Seamens - re: communication, don't want surprises- count number and type of surprises

Ms. Mizeur - outreach of groups - list of the groups- send letters to each, meet with them- keep records of those and share with Council.

Mr. Williams - regular tracking and reporting of PD strength.

Mr. Elrich - tie it to monthly reports by sector.

Fiscal and Management/Efficiency

Mr. Elrich - liked presentation approach of city services on showing reimbursement by functions (street lights), wants compilation of information- strategy for going to County on rebates; backup to go to state to change rules on rebates.

Ms. Porter - don't raise expectations- must work with other municipalities. How we can present the budgets? City services presentation was very helpful- perhaps put in budget document. Use the budget document to explain budget to public.

Mr. Seamens- perhaps a goal of City Manager to bring back optional formats of the budget.

Mr. Williams- would like a text narrative about what the budget is all about without any numbers. (Percentages are OK- not long numbers.)

Ms. Porter - think about new resources again. I'm sure there is money out there; list more efficiencies by departments like was done before.

Mr. Elrich - don't think police accreditation is needed; devours a whole staff person.

Mr. Seamens- emergency preparedness- wants an Emergency Preparedness Citizens Advisory Committee that is different than the Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee.

Youth

Mr. Elrich - Community Center- what is the plan for programming and who it serves.

Ms. Mizeur - need regular updates on the Community Center construction (but not main community center goal for FY05).

Economic Development

Mr. Elrich - Progress of a joint development plan with Montgomery County re: New Hampshire Avenue corridor.

Ms. Mizeur - encourage Washington Adventist Hospital to anchor development in the enterprise zones.

Mr. Seamens - don't forget Maple- Sherman.

City Assets

Ms. Mizeur - Staying on state and city about painting crosswalks/lines; traffic signal bulbs; installing islands where needed.

Mr. Williams - status of traffic lights switch to County?

Mr. Seamens - Police Department used to report pole numbers where lights not working.

Mr. Elrich - Urban Forest Management Plan should be listed.

Ms. Ludlow will produce a draft document for further Council review.

ADJOURNMENT

Following the discussion, Council adjourned for the evening.