

Additional or Revised Information  
City Council Agenda Packet – Wednesday, January 13, 2016

Material posted January 13, 2016

- Proclamation Recognizing the Passing of Stephen J. Del Giudice, Mayor of Takoma Park from 1985 to 1990
- Board of Elections 2015 Annual Report



# City of Takoma Park, Maryland

## Mayoral Proclamation

### Recognizing the Passing of Stephen J. Del Giudice, Mayor of Takoma Park from 1985 to 1990

- WHEREAS,** in 1985, Stephen J. Del Giudice and his family lived in the Hillwood Manor neighborhood of Takoma Park, which was in Prince George's County at the time; and
- WHEREAS,** Mr. Del Giudice practiced law in the District of Columbia and served as a member of the faculty at the George Washington University Law School clinical program where he created a federal and appellate litigation program that exists to this day; and
- WHEREAS,** Mr. Del Giudice was elected Mayor of Takoma Park in 1985, defeating incumbent Mayor Sam Abbott by eight votes; and
- WHEREAS,** he was elected again in 1987 and 1989, but resigned in December 1990 to serve on the Prince George's County Council after running a successful write-in campaign to win the District Two seat. He served on the Prince George's County Council until 1998; and
- WHEREAS,** as Mayor and then as Prince George's County Councilmember, Mr. Del Giudice was a strong supporter and advocate for Takoma Park unification into one county; and
- WHEREAS,** while on the County Council, he was able to broker a majority of the County Council in 1993 to support a joint Prince George's and Montgomery County referendum on unification. This provided much needed momentum towards gaining approval from the Prince George's County Delegation and then the General Assembly to allow the joint referendum in 1995, resulting in the 1997 unification of Takoma Park into Montgomery County; and
- WHEREAS,** a major achievement during his tenure as Mayor was to re-write the City Charter to restructure the council and give the mayor a vote; and
- WHEREAS,** Mr. Del Giudice provided the leadership for a number of other positive changes in Takoma Park, among them negotiation of the first Fire Service Agreement between Montgomery County, Prince George's County and the City of Takoma Park in 1985; enacting the 1986 Tenant Right of First Refusal Legislation; negotiating the City's first Police Rebate Agreement with Montgomery County in 1988; transferring stormwater management responsibilities to the City in 1989, and successfully carrying out the City Centennial Celebration in 1990; and

**WHEREAS,** twenty-five years later, in April 2015, Mr. Del Giudice returned to Takoma Park to take part in the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration where he met and reminisced with present and former Takoma Park mayors, city councilmembers, and others; and

**WHEREAS,** the community was saddened to learn of his passing on December 17, 2015.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Kate Stewart, Mayor of the City of Takoma Park, Maryland, on behalf of the Council, residents, and staff, extend our condolences to friends and family of Stephen J. Del Giudice, including his wife Sheila Driscoll, his children Cara Lingle and Nicolas Del Giudice, his son-in-law Bryan Lingle, his grandchildren Colton and Grayson Lingle and his brothers Peter, Dante, Michael and Joseph Del Giudice.

**FURTHERMORE,** I hereby proclaim our appreciation for his service to the Takoma Park community and note the place of Stephen J. Del Giudice in the history of Takoma Park.

**Dated this 13<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2016**

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**Kate Stewart**  
**Mayor**  
**City of Takoma Park, Maryland**

Attest:

Jessie Carpenter, CMC  
City Clerk

January 11, 2016

The Honorable Kate Stewart, Mayor of Takoma Park, and  
Members of the Takoma Park City Council  
City of Takoma Park  
7500 Maple Avenue  
Takoma Park, MD 20912

Re: Board of Elections Report of Activities, 2015

Dear Mayor Stewart and Members of the City Council:

The Board of Elections (BOE) is pleased to transmit its report of activities for the calendar year 2015. We are available to discuss any questions you may have regarding items in this report.

Sincerely,

/s/

Marilyn R. Abbott, Chairman  
Takoma Park Board of Elections

cc: Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk

Board of Elections:  
Marilyn R. Abbott  
Brian Ernst  
Arthur David Olson  
James C. Roberts  
Beatriz York

## City of Takoma Park Board of Elections Activity Report - 2015

The Board of Elections is pleased to report its activities for 2015.

### Voting Task Force Recommendations

The Board submitted its comments on the Voting Task Force Recommendations to the Mayor and Council in March 2015. In its comments the Board only addressed those recommendations that directly affected conduct of elections in the City of Takoma Park.

### 2015 City Election



This year the Board expanded its outreach and promotional efforts regarding the election. It also changed some processes supporting the election.

#### Outreach and Promotion Efforts

- Early in the year the Board adopted a VOTE logo for use in branding elections materials.
- Two 3' x 8' vinyl banners announcing the Takoma Park election were purchased. The banners were used at early voting locations and voter registration and education events.
- The Board created E Pluri-bus, and entered it in the Independence Day parade.
- Custom fortune cookies, VOTE tee-shirts, bookmarks, flyers announcing voting times and locations, and bus stop posters were created and used. These products, as appropriate, were distributed along the Independence Day parade route, at community events, during voter registration and educational events, at Little Free Libraries, at the Takoma Park Library, and almost any place there might be a gathering of Takoma Park residents.
- Flyers announcing early voting times and locations were shared with community groups for further distribution.
- Postcards with the date of the election were sent to each residential address in the City.

#### Process Changes

- Early voting was expanded to include voting at locations other than the Community Center. Early voting on October 30 was conducted at the New Hampshire Avenue Recreation Center in Ward 6. Early voting on October 31 was conducted

in Sligo Creek Park at Sligo Creek Parkway and Kennebec Avenue, in Ward 5. The other three days of early voting were conducted at the Community Center.

- Language assistance was provided to voters in Spanish, French, and Chinese.
- Certification of Election results and the Election Report were separated to provide the Mayor and Council more complete reconciliation of ballot and voter counts within 24 hours of the election and a wider overview of election activities soon after.
- This year the Board used the main entrance area of the Community Center for check-in and both the Azalea Room and Lilac Room for voting. Voters were directed to the front hallway and then the appropriate room depending on which ward they were registered in. Same day registration, voter assistance, and accessible voting were set up in the Rose Room. This arrangement provided an easy flow and adequate room for voting. All voting election day was at the Community Center.
- In-house printing of ballots provided a tighter control over ballots (ballots were printed just-in-time) and saved printing costs.
- Modified “curbside” voting was instituted.
- The Board of Elections returned to hand counting ballots for the 2015 city election. The Board conducted multiple test runs during the late summer and early fall to refine the procedures for the hand counts. The hand count on the night of the election was successful. The process took just under two hours allowing the Board to provide preliminary results on election night.

#### Work Flow Improvement Areas

- Provide additional staff support to the City Clerk from 3-4 months prior to the next election to 2-3 weeks after the election.
- Locate additional language assistance resources. Russian and Amharic language assistance would be useful.
- Look at other hand counting methodologies.
- Develop more detailed closing procedures.
- Research new technologies providing accessibility for voters.
- Look at impact higher voter turnout may have on existing ballot handling procedures and number of judges needed.
- Develop additional training regarding the pollbooks.
- Determine physical layout changes that may be required to support an even higher voter turnout.



**Synchronization of Elections**

The Board of Elections is developing a work plan to support the City Clerk as she researches information needed to inform the Mayor and Council regarding synchronization of the City election with State and Federal elections. The City Clerk and Chairman have had an initial meeting with the County Board of Elections to inform it regarding the advisory question and to clarify the roles of the State and County boards. A legal services request has been made to the City Attorney’s Office for support as we move forward. The Board has created a Google Document to share questions, ideas, and notes in preparation for our next meeting and the eventual drafting of a letter to the State Board of Elections.

## **Voter Analysis.**

We plan to proceed with an analysis of Takoma Park voter turnout particularly looking at turnout by voter category. We have the initial data from the State and are in the process of updating the file with supplemental data that is City-specific.

## **Board Additions and Departures**

There have been some changes to the Board of Elections this past year. Brian Ernst and Arthur David Olson joined the Board in the spring. Rizwan Qureshi (Ward 3) resigned from the Board in October. Paras Shah resigned from the Board in January 2016. Current members of the Board are: Marilyn Abbott (Ward 1), James C. Roberts (Ward 2), Brian Ernst (Ward 3), Arthur David Olson (Ward 4), and Beatriz York (Ward 5).

We have an active applicant from Ward 1 for one of the vacancies.