



City of Takoma Park, Maryland Mayoral Proclamation

Recognizing Housing Manager Linda Walker

WHEREAS, Linda Walker joined the City of Takoma Park's Housing and Community Development Department staff on November 3, 1988; and

WHEREAS, on December 31st of this year, after 27 years, 1 month and 29 days, Ms. Walker will be leaving the City of Takoma Park, having decided to retire from public service; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure, Ms. Walker was instrumental in the development of a variety of programming that has had a lasting and significant impact on the Takoma Park community; and

WHEREAS, of particular note was her involvement in the implementation of Takoma Park's rent stabilization program and the development of procedures for monitoring rents charged to tenants; the development of the Emergency Assistance Fund, providing low income residents with access to needed medical care, food, and housing; the establishment of the City's passport services program; and the development of the Exterior Home Repair Program and Mission Serve project; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Walker's commitment to protecting the rights of Takoma Park's renters and support of the right of tenants to organize resulted in the formation of tenant associations across the community and the formation of the successful Tenant Capacity Building Initiative; and

WHEREAS, her interest in providing tenants with an opportunity to transition to homeownership resulted in the establishment of City's First Time Homebuyers Classes and the purchase of countless condominium units and homes by local residents; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Walker's dedication to improving the quality of lives of community residents resulted in the formation of new partnerships with local organizations and the implementation of a variety of initiatives including the Takoma Park Food Pantry and after school programming at the Essex House and 7410 Maple, among others: and

WHEREAS, Ms. Walker will be missed by all those whose lives she touched.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KATE STEWART, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND, on behalf of the City Council, staff and residents, do hereby express our appreciation to Linda Walker for her service to the Takoma Park community and wish her well in her future endeavors.

Dated this 11th day of December, 2015.

**Kate Stewart
Mayor**