

Hello to our Councilmembers.

We've been taxpayers in Montgomery County for 40 years and started the Friends of the Takoma Park Rec Center some years ago. I'm politically active and have supported many of you, including those from Takoma Park who seem to have forgotten us.

The Council has shamefully refused to right the county's tax duplication wrong for 13 years, and is now making it worse.

Although homeowners, my husband and I do not write because of OUR taxes. We write because double taxation penalizes the majority of Takoma Park residents who are tenants of multi-family properties, the majority of whom are people of color, who pay extra taxes through their rent and may or may not know it.

The Council's refusal to pay its fair share for the services Takoma Park and the other high minority municipalities provide and Montgomery County doesn't, is shameful. Some of you may think that refusing to increase and refusing to pay for the services we pay for twice, like crossing guard wages, road maintenance, and police is picking budgetary low-hanging fruit. But we notice and are very disturbed by your seeming lack of interest to reimbursing us fairly. It's time to codify a consistent

process for updating the formulas and to begin negotiation on the formula for police and park maintenance.

BTW, although not part of reimbursement, Takoma Park pays for a rich and community-serving Recreation program while the County provides our residents with almost nothing in recreation services. Our taxpayers should not be paying a County Recreation Tax and that must change.

If you think of Takoma Park as a bunch of aging hippie do-gooders, you are overlooking the majority of our population, who are young, diverse and have been struggling since before the pandemic.

We're not looking for a handout or special treatment. In fairness, we want what we are entitled too.

Please do not let us down.

Priscilla Labovitz
Joseph Cirincione

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