

## Focus Areas and Priority Actions

The Mayor helps to bring the experience and expertise of the Council to bear in addressing the issues faced by the City. The primary roles of the Mayor are (a) to help the Council move cooperatively toward a common vision by setting the schedule and agenda for Council activities, in cooperation with the City Manager; (b) to facilitate positive, productive Council deliberations; (c) to explain the City's vision and plans clearly to residents and involve residents more fully in civic life; and (d) to build and maintain productive partnerships with governments, other agencies, and other institutional partners within and outside the City.

If elected, I would set out immediately to lead collaborative efforts to address the following focus areas. The actions and timelines presented here should be viewed as starting points for discussion and as a means for voters to assess my plans.

Focus Area	First Six Months	In First Year	In Second Year	Five Year Vision
Fiscal Sustainability	Comprehensive budget review process with focus groups and community meetings, emphasis on transparency: goal to agree on what emergency cuts we can live with.	Successful union negotiations to maintain fairness and gain greater predictability in pension, health and disability costs. Achieve resolution of County Task Force on reimbursement question; if necessary, take issue to courts.	Fiscal Sustainability Task Force: Carry out cost-benefit analyses of services to assess wisdom of returning any to the County. Emphasis on allocation of grants and other revenue sources to priority goals of Strategic Plan. Mobilize partnerships to accomplish recreation goals.	No net growth in City staff; no net increase in average household tax burden as percentage of income; maintain inventory of rent-stabilized units; revenue increases achieved through some commercial growth and acceptable development.
Public Safety	Major outreach to achieve broad, diverse representation in Police Advisory Board.	Resolve 911 routing and concerns about dispatcher protocols – Establish ongoing program for education on crime reduction strategies.	Establish clear targets to increase face-to-face communication between police and residents. Inventory lighting and code problems and begin to resolve.	Increased safety due to effective police-resident partnership allows some police time to be directed toward work with youth programs.

<b>Housing and Economic Development</b>	Establish Task Force to plan and invite participants to “summits” on Old Town/Small Commercial Districts and Landlord-Tenant Affairs.	Convene summit on Old Town/Small Commercial Districts. Involve residents throughout process. Catalyze cooperative effort involving neighborhood constituencies, local consumers, business owners, and entrepreneurs to devise an acceptable plan for small-scale growth.	Convene summit on Landlord-Tenant Affairs to ensure continued viability of rent stabilization program, ability of landlords to operate successfully and make environmental upgrades to properties, and continued improvement in quality of life for renters.	Walkable destinations which also attract visitors particular from a three-mile radius; Elimination of “forgotten ward” self-identifications; stability in rental population to increase civic participation of renters; improvement in quality and efficiency of rental properties.
<b>Environment</b>	Prioritize support of City staff and Council for the work of the Environmental Task Force.	All city employee job descriptions include responsibility for environment. Measurable goals and action plans are in place and integrated into five-year capital budget.	Fund Task Force recommendations that have greatest per-dollar impact on environment; leverage establishment of cooperative to help residents/businesses transition to energy efficiency/alternative energy.	Achievement of revised community goals for reductions in vehicle miles traveled, carbon emissions, ozone reduction, and stormwater maximum flows.
<b>Recreation/ Youth</b>	Bring together organizations/adult leaders to build framework. Maintain engagement with W.A. Hospital regarding possible fitness facilities.	Establish Youth Activities Union or Youth Advisory Board – Establish one new youth sports program.	Establish new youth programs in: employment, public service. Complete central reservation/scheduling system for City and partner recreation facilities (virtual Gym)	Recreation brings people together across geographic, ethnic, and socioeconomic lines and builds human capacity.
<b>Civic Participation</b>	Full Census Count teams with cross-ward membership.	Actively invite leaders from each Ward to Council meeting with their Ward concerns on the agenda. Solicit pool of resumes for advisory committees and task forces; provide clarity on mission and products for each group.	Rejuvenate relatively inactive neighborhood associations through active face-to-face recruitment and presence in the community; open up Civic Center and auditorium to successful art exhibitions, performing arts events, and community gatherings.	A true cross-section of the community engaged in solving problems and improving quality of life. A Civic Center that is a lively hub and meeting place for all parts of the community.

Public Works	Separate critical immediate needs from wants in Public Works renovation.	Revisit Public Works renovation as a phased approach, responding to Environmental Task Force.	Establish priorities for sidewalk program to complete "arterial" pathways to schools and commercial districts. Attempt to piece together a cross-town bikeway route-of-way through school lands, Public Works, and hospital land.	Public Works facility with flexibility to handle new environmental technologies; cross-town walkability to commercial districts.
Strategic Planning	Revisit Strategic Plan; establish baseline data, measurable outcomes, and order of priorities for first two years.	Align FY2011 budget priorities with Strategic Plan. Begin to communicate Strategic Plan effectively to neighborhood groups, advisory committees, and community partners.	Identify and make necessary changes to City code that can help City meet goals in Strategic Plan. Work closely with Montgomery Planning to customize zoning and TOD plans to fit unique character of Takoma Park.	Council, staff, and residents are working cooperatively to move forward progressively as a City toward broadly embraced goals.