



in Community

2-15-2024

Delegate Sarah Wolek  
Annapolis, Maryland  
Subject: Letter of Support for HB1103

Dear Delegate Wolek,

This letter is written with the full support of the leadership of the Village of Takoma Park for Bill HB1103. We are a 501(c)3 non-profit formed to help the growing numbers of seniors in Takoma Park, particularly low income seniors, who are aging in place by choice and necessity. It is essential that our Village continue and grow, given the burgeoning number of our Takoma Park seniors in need. For that to happen our model must evolve.

Our annual budget is only 32,000. We can only afford to pay one part-time consultant who supports our administrative and programmatic work. We are partially supported by a grant from Montgomery County and the rest comes from donations and a small grant from The Takoma Foundation. We have run a deficit over the last three years, caused by the burden of the administrative work required to manage a non-profit. The rest of our services are provided by volunteers. We provide rides, social and informational activities, vaccination clinics, home repair and friendly visits to mainly low income people in Takoma Park, who otherwise would not be able to get to doctors' appointments or pay for minor home repairs. We work hard to connect those with broader needs to other government services or to other non-profits. Fifty percent of our budget is spent on administrative items-accounting services, insurance, fundraising and grant reporting. If the consortium model moves forward, our future would certainly be more secure, as much of our administrative burden could be more efficiently done by the umbrella agency, as proposed. Our membership dues are the lowest in the county, as we serve some of the poorest. They are 25.00 a year and there are those, whose memberships we comp when cannot afford the 25.00.

The administrative services organization approach has worked in Village and association management models across the country because it spreads necessary infrastructure costs across a wider base of organizations, thereby reducing, or if subsidized, eliminating costs that burden our village tremendously. The Villages in Montgomery County are made up of people that care, that share lessons learned and work together for the good of the whole. This funding would support this next step in the evolution of our county Villages, which have been successful, but are struggling now and need to grow and support more direct services to those in need.

We commend you for introducing this bill and hope it will find support.

Sincerely,

*Emily van Loon, CPA*

Emily van Loon, CPA  
Vice President and Treasurer  
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