



HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Marc Elrich
County Executive

Sandra J. Heiler
Chairman

February 13, 2019

Mr. Casey Anderson
Chair, Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

RE: Montgomery College Takoma Park Campus Mandatory Referral

Dear Mr. Anderson and Members of the Planning Board:

The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) received a briefing from Planning Department staff regarding the Mandatory Referral for the construction of new buildings at Montgomery College's Takoma Park Campus. As you know this project is located adjacent to the Master Plan Historic District of Takoma Park, and within the boundaries of the Takoma Park National Register Historic District.

The HPC is generally supportive of this project. The HPC agrees with the findings and recommendations of the staff. We find that the setbacks of the new construction are generally sufficient to protect the Master Plan District, the proposed heights—measuring 35' near the railroad tracks to 45' on the interior of the campus—are generally appropriate, and that the College has taken care to protect viewsheds from the Takoma Park District and neighboring properties. The elevations facing New York Avenue are of particular concern, and care should be taken with the glass frit wall and other details so that they create a compatible and harmonious viewshed from the Master Plan District properties. We urge the College to continue to work with the community and staff on the final location and colors of the materials for the new buildings. The goal of this further consultation would be to further minimize the impact of the new buildings on the viewshed of the historic district. The buildings proposed to be demolished are outside of the late 19th-century/early 20th century period of significance of the National Register District. We concur that their demolition will not have an adverse effect on the Takoma Park National Register District or the Master Plan Historic District.

The HPC recommends that the Planning Board approve the project with the recommendations of the staff.





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Very Sincerely,

Sandra J. Heiler
Chair, Historic Preservation Commission

cc. HPC Members
Montgomery College
Historic Takoma, Inc.

