



City of Takoma Park, Maryland

Statement from Mayor Bruce Williams - Takoma Junction Site

March 2, 2015

Tonight we are announcing that the number of finalist development firms for the Takoma Junction project is now two. Four firms were approved as finalists in the process. One firm, Community Three, withdrew from the process on February 13. Another firm, the Ability Project, is no longer being considered by the Council as the developer for the project. The two remaining firms are NDC (Neighborhood Development Company) and Keystar/EcoHousing. The Council is continuing consideration of these two firms for the following reasons:

- 1) Both Keystar and NDC have a more comprehensive approach to the development of the site. (The Ability Project's proposal, as modified over time, was clearly focused on addressing their specific programming needs.)
- 2) With NDC and Keystar, it is clear that the City would be working with just one development entity rather than possibly two or more development teams for the different components of the project as might have occurred with the Ability Project's proposal.
- 3) Both Keystar and NDC have strong financing plans with clear evidence of their ability to secure funds required to complete the project. (The Ability Project proposal is dependent upon their ability to secure a grant or bond funding from the state.)

The Council is pleased that the Ability Project would like to place its own facility in Takoma Park - we would welcome them as part of our community.