

Guidelines for Supporting Events - Current Policies from other Jurisdictions

Takoma Park

Takoma Park does not have a formal policy/guidelines. Generally, they do not purchase tickets for fundraisers. If staff feels that there is a situation where a one-time contribution would buy a lot of good will, they consult with the Mayor and Council. Often, Councilmembers will purchase their own tickets for their own benefit.

Takoma Park pays for the Monday Montgomery County legislative dinner at the MML June Convention, and the December MML Chapter Legislative dinner. The City currently pays for spouses to attend the December MML Chapter Legislative dinner.

Gaithersburg

The City of Gaithersburg established guidelines for these types of events in 2010, in response to concern about the economic climate. A list of acceptable Community Events that would be supported was created to provide guidelines for staff, as outlined below. The City tries to support events that support the Gaithersburg community.

List of Annual Community Events

Table (T)

City Representative (CR)

Affordable Housing Conference (CR)

Committee for Montgomery Breakfast (CR/T)

Denim & Diamonds Gala (T)

Domestic Violence Empowerment Luncheon (CR)

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration (CR)

Gaithersburg/Germantown Chamber of Commerce PSA Breakfast (T)

Gaithersburg/Germantown Chamber of Commerce Dinner (T)

Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County Breakfast (T)

Historic Preservation Training (CR)

Maryland Municipal League Chapter Legislative Dinner (T)

Maryland Municipal League Opening Day Reception (CR)

Minority Legislative Breakfast (CR)

Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless (T)

Montgomery County Housing Fair (CR)

Montgomery County Workforce and Economic Development Awards Breakfast (CR)

NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner - Montgomery Chapter (T)

Victims' Rights Foundation Gala (CR)

Since then staff has received other invitations for event sponsorship that have not been added to the list. The City Clerk forwards those that are not listed to the City Manager for a decision. A decision as to whether to include spouses when they purchase a table is made on a case by case basis, depending on the event.

City of Greenbelt

The City of Greenbelt has no formal guidelines or policies in this area. They make these decisions on a case by case basis and there are very few instances where it has come up. The City reimburses the Mayor and Council for MML related legislative dinners.

City of Bowie

The City has a Nonprofit policy that addresses use of facilities, reduced fees and co-sponsoring programs and events. Section G addresses Fundraising and Financial Contributions, as outlined below:

Fundraising and Financial Contributions

On occasion the City Council or City officials receive requests to raise money for a cause, to sponsor a particular organization, or to help underwrite the cost of a trip by a class, a club, or a sports organization by making a financial contribution to the organization or by purchasing a table for a banquet or tickets to a fundraising event.

In general, the City of Bowie government shall not make financial contributions to support organizations or clubs, unless it can be demonstrated that the contribution will benefit the community as a whole or will advance the goals and priorities of the City government.

Exceptions to this section may be authorized by the City Council in times of catastrophe or widespread hardship.

The City does reimburse elected officials for the costs they incur to attend MML sponsored events, as well as Chamber of Commerce events and the Prince George's County Municipal Association.

Montgomery County

Montgomery County elected officials do not use any taxpayer funds to pay for events that they attend. Since no tax payer funds are involved, Montgomery County does not have an established policy or guidelines that regulate the attendance of events by elected officials.

Rockville Draft Policy Statement – Guidelines for Supporting Events is specifically crafted to apply to instances where the City uses taxpayer funds to pay for elected officials to support an organization and/or attend an event. Since Montgomery County does not use taxpayer funds for this purpose, their situation is entirely different. Therefore, it is not possible to make a comparison between Montgomery County and Rockville.