



Dear Takoma Park Neighbors,

I ran for Mayor two years ago. This year, I'm excited to be voting for JARRETT SMITH. For an explanation, read on.

In the fifteen years that I've followed City affairs closely, Jarrett Smith has been the finest Council member by far. He's always taken a close look at the matters brought before the Council. He's always asked informed questions about proposed ordinances, programs, projects, and budget line items. He's always listened closely. He's always displayed systems thinking.

Jarrett Smith has had the courage to say, "We can do better" when confronted with proposals that look good in isolation but that would defer other priorities or that wouldn't produce well-coordinated outcomes. Jarrett Smith has had the integrity to say, "Let's take another look" or even "No" when proposed budgets are risky, unfocused, or unsustainable. Jarrett Smith has patiently and forthrightly spoken out for our highest and best values. It was Jarrett Smith who originally called for the City to prioritize racial equity and who has pushed for applying an equity lens meaningfully to issues such as public safety, housing, and transportation, and to projects such as the Junction, the Library, and the Rec Center.

Jarrett has served wisely on the Council dais while acting quietly, out of the spotlight, to care for the most vulnerable in our community, whether that be through assisting renters in distress, putting many hours across years into the Lunch and Learn program that he founded, focusing on advancing human potential with the Library project, or advocating for equity in the allocation of ARPA funds. If you've ever spoken with Jarrett or walked around town with him, you've seen how he engages warmly with everyone he encounters in an authentic, non-transactional way. Beyond the city, he has taken leadership in environmental and social justice issues professionally and through regional and national intergovernmental organizations.

A community problem-solver, Jarrett's favorite pronoun seems to be "we." I don't often hear him passing responsibilities to others, as in "they" need to do this or that. And even more rarely does he blow his own horn, talking about "I did this" or "I did that." I'm boasting about Jarrett here in ways he never would – because he models true humility.

We're in a trying period with lots of change in elected and staff leadership, lots of projects just barely underway or not even started, a possible recession right around the corner, and a fiscal hole to dig out of after several years of rising costs and depleting reserves. We need a wise leader, we need a strong listener who can explain things clearly, keep the big picture in view, and set an agenda that advances City priorities in tangible, measurable ways. In my opinion, Jarrett Smith is unquestionably that leader for these times.

I understand the enthusiasm of residents who are supporting Talisha Searcy. Like Jarrett Smith, she has been a positive champion for her ward and is appreciated for her service to constituents. However, I think Jarrett

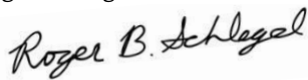
Smith has been much more forthright and consistent in calling out dysfunctions in our local government. I think that with Jarrett Smith as Mayor, our Council will put systems in place that keep any ward from being "forgotten" and that hold the City Manager and Staff accountable -- so that it doesn't take contacting a Council member to get the City staff to deal with an issue on your street.

I appreciate that Seth Grimes shares Jarrett Smith's progressive commitment and that some residents are enthusiastic about how Seth "gets things done." However, I see Jarrett as the less-flashy systems thinker we need now. As Mayor, he will make sure that the City isn't just ticking off individual accomplishments but that actions are harmonized to support community well-being across the board. I think as Mayor, Jarrett won't rush ahead or push ahead on his own for small-scale "wins." Instead, he will guide team deliberations so that, as a diverse group, the Council makes steady progress built upon consensus about which things need doing.

I'm convinced that JARRETT SMITH is our best choice for mayor in 2022. I was so happy when I learned that he was stepping forward to run. With wisdom, experience, compassion, and restraint, he is best suited to lead our Council and community to do better.

If you haven't been considering Jarrett closely, I hope you will take a close look at his experience, his positions, and his record. If you agree with me that he should be our next Mayor, I hope you'll sing his praises far and wide and spread the word in these last three weeks of the election. Please feel free to pass along or post this letter to any and all whom you feel it would benefit.

In friendship,
Roger Schlegel

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roger B. Schlegel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a light blue shadow effect behind the text.