



CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

HB 1016 Support

Rules and Executive Nominations

February 25, 2019

HB 1016 - General Assembly - Analysis of Proposed Legislation - Racial Impact

**Contact: Kacy Kostiuk, Ward 3 Councilmember
kacyk@takomaparkmd.gov, 301-891-7230**

The City of Takoma Park supports HB 1016 and urges favorable consideration of this bill.

This bill's requirement of a racial impact analysis for certain future bills would provide additional protections for and potentially improve the wellbeing of residents in Takoma Park and the rest of the State of Maryland.

Takoma Park has identified racial equity as an important factor in our local policymaking, programming, and initiatives. Racism in this country has led to racial disparities in education and job attainment, housing, and many quality-of-life indicators. Racism has become institutionalized in policies and practices, even those we believe or intend to be race-neutral. To address these issues, it is important to explicitly consider the racial equity impacts of legislation.

In early 2017, the Takoma Park City Council adopted a resolution committing to using a racial equity lens to decision-making. Since then, we have made strides in thinking about and considering the racial equity impacts of our decisions. Our work has included adding a "Racial Equity Considerations" statement on all agenda items that come before the City Council for discussion or action. This is an important opportunity to consider about the racial equity impacts of our work. A similar structure at the State level could also enable positive results.

As a City, we continue to grapple with how to best consider the racial equity impacts of our decisions and how to create a more racially equitable community. This is an ongoing process, and we are excited about the potential to learn from similar efforts at the State level.

For these reasons, the City of Takoma Park supports HB 1016 and urges unfavorable consideration of the bill.