



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – April 19, 2017 Agenda Item 1

Voting Session

Resolution Committing the City Council to Systematically and Deliberately Apply a Racial Equity Lens in Decision-Making

Recommended Council Action

Adopt the Resolution

Context with Key Issues

As part of their annual Retreat held in January, the Council invited and was joined by a representative of the National League of Cities' Race, Equity, and Leadership Division who presented information and facilitated a discussion about the importance of incorporating considerations of racial equity in policy and budget decisions using a disciplined approach. The Council embraced the idea and plans to take steps moving forward to ensure that racial equity is always considered when making decisions. One of the first steps Council wishes to take is to adopt a resolution that outlines the reasoning and formally establishes their commitment to applying a racial equity lens to their decision-making processes. Additionally, effective April 5, 2017, all Council agenda items will include a "Racial Equity Impact Statement."

Council Priority

A Livable Community for All

Environmental Impact of Action

To be determined depending on the specific decision before Council.

Fiscal Impact of Action

To be determined depending on the specific decision before Council.

Racial Equity Impact of Action

Adopting this resolution will lay the foundation for applying a racial equity lens to all future decisions made by Council.

Attachments and Links

- Draft Resolution

Introduced by:

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

Resolution No. 2017-

**Resolution Committing the City Council to
Systematically and Deliberately Apply a Racial Equity
Lens in Decision-Making**

WHEREAS, the Takoma Park City Council embraces the great diversity in the City; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the history of racism in our country and how it has led to many current day disparities in education and job attainment, housing, and healthcare, as well as disproportionate incarceration rates for people of color; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes that racial inequities have become institutionalized in the policies and practices of many agencies, governmental and otherwise; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes that issues of racial equity must be addressed proactively and deliberately in the course of decision-making to increase the success for all groups; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the need to examine seemingly neutral policies and practices to determine whether they are contributing to racial inequity and where needed change or eliminate the policy or practice; and

WHEREAS, the City Council engaged in open and honest dialogue with experts on the subject of racial equity and with each other during their 2017 Council Retreat; and

WHEREAS, the City Council is interested in exploring and instituting methods that have worked in cities around the country to update, eliminate, or create government policies, practices, and programs specifically to dismantle existing racial disparities; and

WHEREAS, the City Council acknowledges potential difficulties in assessing the impact of decisions on racial equity, but is committed to applying a racial equity lens in a systematic way in its decision-making processes with the goal of continuing to build an inclusive, equitable community and ensure a vibrant and healthy community for all Takoma Park residents; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has directed staff to begin including a "Racial Equity Impact Statement" on all agenda items beginning on April 5, 2017.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Takoma Park commits itself to systematically and deliberately applying a racial equity lens in its decision-making henceforth.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2017.