



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – February 17, 2021

Agenda Item 9

Work Session

Resolution Providing for Appointments to the Reimagining Public Safety Task Force

Recommended Council Action

Discuss appointments.

Context with Key Issues

The City Council established a Task Force on Reimagining Public Safety to Ensure Racial Justice by Resolution 2020-21 on September 23, 2020. The purpose of the Task Force is to advise and provide recommendations on ways the City can reform public safety policies and procedures to ensure racial justice. The Task Force is to be composed of up to 15 members appointed by the City Council.

Pursuant to Resolution 2020-21, the Council will prioritize members from the following in selection of members for appointment:

- Black and Brown residents or business owners that vary by income, education, sexual orientation, and gender identification
- Black and Brown youth
- Local experts in civil liberties, social justice, police reform
- A member from the resident committee, Police Chief's Advisory Board
- Mental health and other social service professionals
- Representatives from advocacy groups such as Casa De Maryland, NAACP, ACLU, MOCO Black Lives Matters, and Silver Spring Justice Coalition.

Additionally, the Task Force may include no more than three ex-officio members appointed by the Council from City staff whose role is to collaborate with the Task Force as needed through a process driven by the Task Force members. These ex-officio members will not be able to vote on Task Force recommendations and their involvement and meeting attendance will be determined by the Task Force. They may be changed once the Task Force is in place based on recommendations from the Task Force. Priority for ex-officio membership will initially be for representatives of the Police Department, Recreation Department, and the Housing and Community Development Department.

LINK Strategic Partners and Expectant Advisory LLC have been engaged by the City to guide and facilitate the Task Force in its efforts.

The City put out a call for applications to serve on the Task Force. The deadline for applications was February 5, 2021. Applications are being reviewed by a team of City staff members, City Council members, and the contracted facilitators.

Council Priority

Engaged, Responsive, and Service-Oriented Government building on Resolution 2017-45, which

established the City Council's goals and priorities for the Takoma Park Police Department; and Resolution 2017-28, committing the City Council to systematically and deliberately apply a racial equity lens in decision-making. Livable Community for All

Environmental Considerations

None.

Fiscal Considerations

Expenses related to the Task Force include the cost of the facilitators and any assistance the Council determines should be provided to the appointed Task Force members.

Racial Equity Considerations

The population of Takoma Park is majority people of color. The history of racism in this country 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. Given the history of actions of police violence against Black and Brown people in the United States, special attention in this effort is to be given to review and reform the City's approach to public safety to ensure racial justice. The Task Force is envisioned to include Black and Brown residents or business owners and then representatives from several stakeholder groups.

The racial breakdown of the Takoma Park Police Department as a whole roughly approximates the City's population, but there is a larger proportion of white sworn officers than is representative of the City's population and there are no white employees in Dispatch. Dispatch has a higher percentage of staff who speak Spanish than residents who identify as Hispanic/Latinx, which helps reduce reliance on translation services.

	Asian	Black/African-American	Hispanic/Latinx	White	Other	Population
City* %	4.4	34.0	14.5	43.3	3.8	16,715
TPPD %	1.4	34.7	16.7	47.2	0.0	72
Officers	0.0	26.2	14.3	59.5	0.0	42
Dispatch	14.3	57.1	28.6	0.0	0.0	7
Others	0.0	43.5	17.4	39.1	0.0	23

*2010 Census numbers; TPPD numbers are as of September 8, 2020.

Attachments and Links

- [Resolution 2020-21](#)