



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – June 23, 2021 Agenda Item 3

Voting Item

Resolution extending the term of the Task Force on “Reimagining Public Safety to Ensure Racial Justice” and the terms of its members

Recommended Council Action

Approve a resolution extending the term of the Task Force and those of its members until no later than October 15, 2021.

Context with Key Issues

The Task Force was formed with the intent of developing recommendations to make Takoma Park a safer, more livable community for all residents, with an emphasis on addressing racial inequalities that exist in government and services concerning public safety. The Task Force is comprised of fifteen members and began holding meetings in March of 2021. The Task Force was required to submit its final report and recommendations concerning public safety to the City Council by June 4, 2021, and the Task Force may be dissolved after its recommendations are presented to the City Council by June 30, 2021. The Task Force requires an additional period of time to complete its work and its members’ terms also require extension through October 15, 2021

Council Priority

Engaged, responsive, and service-oriented government.

Environmental Considerations

This action has little to no environmental impact.

Fiscal Considerations

The extension of the contract with LINK Associates for facilitation services through July 2021 will cost an additional \$15,000.

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.

Attachments and Links

Draft Resolution

Introduced by: Councilmember _____

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

**RESOLUTION 2021-__
EXTENDING THE TASK FORCE ON “REIMAGINING PUBLIC SAFETY TO
ENSURE RACIAL JUSTICE” AND THE TERMS OF ITS MEMBERS**

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 2017-45 established the City Council’s goals and priorities for the Takoma Park Police Department including ensuring a culture of transparency, accountability, proactive communication, and responsiveness, both inside and outside of the City government; and

WHEREAS, the City Council wants to review and reform the City’s approach to public safety to ensure racial justice; and

WHEREAS, on September 23, 2020, the City Council adopted Resolution 2020-21, established the Task Force on “Reimagining Public Safety to Ensure Racial Justice” (the “Task Force”); and

WHEREAS, since March of 2021, the Task Force has held numerous meetings in pursuit of its goals; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution 2020-21, the Task Force was required to submit its final report and recommendations concerning public safety to the City Council by June 4, 2021, and the Task Force may be dissolved after its recommendations are presented to the City Council by June 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 2020-21 permits the City Council to extend the operative term of the Task Force and its members; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force requires an additional period of time to complete its work pursuant to Resolution 2020-21 and its members’ terms also require extension; and

WHEREAS, to ensure that the Task Force can adequately create a set of recommendations concerning public safety, it is necessary to extend the date extend the operative term of the Task Force and its members.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND the City Council hereby extends the term of the Task Force and the terms of its members, until no later than October 15, 2021; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Task Force on Reimagining Public Safety shall be dissolved, after making and presenting its final recommendations to the City Council, on or before October 15, 2021.

Adopted by the Council of the City of Takoma Park, Maryland this ____ day of June 2021.

AYE:

NAY:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Attest:

Jessie Carpenter, CMC
City Clerk