



CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

**HB 120 / SB 178
Support**

February 5, 2021

House – Judiciary

Senate – Judicial Proceedings

HB 120 / SB 178: Public Information Act – Personnel Records – Investigations of Law Enforcement Officers (Anton’s Law)

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The City of Takoma Park supports HB 120 / SB 178, Anton’s Law.

The City of Takoma Park is committed to reimagining public safety and ensuring a culture of transparency, accountability, proactive communication, and responsiveness. Those are goals that are basic and that should be adopted across the State of Maryland and across the nation.

A critical reform that is needed in Maryland is to make police misconduct complaint records more accessible to the public. The level of restriction regarding these records in Maryland is excessive. The lack of information is a major hindrance to ensuring that the actions of law enforcement officers are held to the most basic accountability standards. The most important point is this:

Survivors of police misconduct, their families and their communities should have the right to know if their cases are investigated properly or if they were even investigated at all.

The City of Takoma Park urges favorable consideration of HB 120 / SB 178, Anton’s Law.