

Introduced by: Councilmember Seamens

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND
RESOLUTION 2012-29
SUPPORTING FEDERAL BUDGET PRIORITIZATION**

WHEREAS, United States military spending is higher than it has been since World War II, using inflation-adjusted dollars and the Pentagon budget has more than doubled (in constant dollars) since 1998; and

WHEREAS, both progressive and conservative think tanks and leaders have recently put forth proposals for specific, sustainable cuts to the military budget; and

WHEREAS, significant cuts in military spending can be made without adversely affecting America's security and without affecting pay and benefits for servicemen and women and veterans, health care for servicemen and women and veterans, or protective gear for active duty personnel; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Defense and the Veterans Administration operate two of the nation's largest health care systems and provide care to approximately 9.6 million active duty military members and six million veterans; however, the health and mental health needs for members of our armed forces continue to be underfunded; and

WHEREAS, while military spending has been extraordinary during the past decade, huge cuts have been made at the federal, state, and local levels to domestic spending, including appropriations for Maryland, Montgomery County, and the City of Takoma Park; and

WHEREAS, reduced federal funds to Takoma Park's Community Development Block Grant program jeopardized previously approved projects to serve low- and middle-income Takoma Park residents and additional cuts may well be made next year; and

WHEREAS, according to data from the National Priorities Project, the projected contribution of Takoma Park taxpayers to the FY2012 Department of Defense budget was \$35.0 million. For the same amount of money, the following could be provided:

14,028 Children Receiving Low-Income Healthcare for One Year, OR
467 Elementary School Teachers for One Year OR
487 Firefighters for One Year OR
4,476 Head Start Slots for Children for One Year OR
13,369 Households with Renewable Electricity - Solar Photovoltaic for One Year OR
28,076 Households with Renewable Electricity-Wind Power for One Year OR
3,648 Military Veterans Receiving VA Medical Care for One Year OR
4,889 People Receiving Low-Income Healthcare for One Year OR
491 Police or Sheriff's Patrol Officers for One Year OR
4,342 Scholarships for University Students for One Year OR
6,301 Students receiving Pell Grants of \$5550; and

WHEREAS, given the current economic crisis, job creation is essential in both the private and public sectors where funds are needed to rebuild deteriorating infrastructure, and investments must be made in developing new technologies to create a sustainable future.

WHEREAS, a different military strategy and an end to the wars abroad would free up hundreds of billions of dollars; and

WHEREAS, this revenue is necessary to support the nation, the state, and all local governments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND urges the United States Congress to make major reductions in the Pentagon budget, in a manner that does not harm the safety or lives of our troops, with the savings invested in state and local needs so that the City of Takoma Park and other local jurisdictions can repair their deteriorating infrastructure, reverse budget cuts to education, health care, and other needs, and otherwise improve the welfare of their residents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this Resolution will be sent to the Montgomery County Council, the Maryland delegation to the United States Congress, the Governor of Maryland, the Montgomery County delegation of the Maryland General Assembly; and the President of the United States.

Adopted this 21st day of May, 2012.

Attest:

Jessie Carpenter, CMC
City Clerk