

Introduced by: Councilmember Seamens

## **RESOLUTION 2020-1**

### **RESOLUTION UPHOLDING COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND INCLUSIVITY**

- WHEREAS,** the City of Takoma Park has a long history of and commitment to building a welcoming, caring, inclusive, and strong community which celebrates its diversity; and
- WHEREAS,** international human rights are articulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in a broad range of laws, norms and values that recognize and promote the fundamental humanity and dignity of every person, as well as the necessity of fairness and opportunity for all people, and that enable people to meet their basic needs and to enjoy basic civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights; and
- WHEREAS,** the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaims that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth therein, without distinction of any kind, such as race, religion or other status; and everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; and
- WHEREAS,** the preamble of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that disregard for and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of humankind; and
- WHEREAS,** a basic tenet of the human rights framework is that human rights must involve and reflect the needs of local communities, and that all levels of government have an affirmative obligation to respect, protect and fulfill these rights; and
- WHEREAS,** cities are on the front lines of ensuring equity, combating discrimination and enabling access to affordable housing, quality educational opportunities, and health care, among other human rights; and
- WHEREAS,** the City of Takoma Park is committed through its policies and programs to uphold all individuals' human rights; and
- WHEREAS,** the City of Takoma Park is committed to protecting the rights of all people; and embraces and works toward providing equitable access to opportunities for people of all ages, races, ethnicities, religious beliefs or memberships, citizenship status, abilities, gender identities, and sexual orientations; and
- WHEREAS,** the City of Takoma Park has promoted policies to address fundamental human rights and needs and ensuring equality for LGBTQ persons, non-citizens, refugees, and persons of all different faiths, races, ethnicities and nationalities; and

**WHEREAS,** the City of Takoma Park recognizes the recent rise in deadly attacks and historical violence toward the Jewish people, and strongly denounces anti-Semitism, Holocaust denial, and distortions about Judaism and Jewish life and culture; and

**WHEREAS,** the Council recognizes that undertaking an affirmative obligation to respect, protect, and fulfill the rights and dignity of all persons requires careful attention to actions, as well as to words, an openness to thoughtful discussion and disagreement, and an appreciation of differences in access to power.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that on this day January 22, 2020, the City of Takoma Park recognizes and affirms the importance of the human rights principles of dignity, equity and opportunity; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the City of Takoma Park commits to uphold and promote human rights, in collaboration with other levels of government agencies and officials and with the active support of our residents; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the City of Takoma Park reaffirms a commitment to building a welcoming, inclusive community that celebrates diversity and strives for equity and respect for all.

Adopted by the Council of the City of Takoma Park, Maryland this 22nd day of January, 2020.

ATTEST:

Jessie Carpenter, CMC  
City Clerk