

Introduced by: Councilmember Smith

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

RESOLUTION 2020-16

**Resolution Authorizing Transmittal of Legislative Action Requests
To the Maryland Municipal League for Consideration**

WHEREAS, the Takoma Park City Council is charged with setting policy and pursuing legislative changes in the best interests of the Takoma Park community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Takoma Park is an active member of the Maryland Municipal League (MML); and

WHEREAS, MML pursues legislative changes to benefit Maryland municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the Council is concerned that COVID-19 has caused severe economic disruption for its residents. Investment in small businesses and job training programs is desperately needed; and

WHEREAS, following the murders of Black men and women like the tragedies of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and countless others, the nation is coming to grips with what policing is like for the Black community. The Council believes it is imperative that police reform is implemented now in an explicit and determined manner; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has recognized a continuing statewide climate emergency that affects municipalities and their residents statewide, by declaring a climate emergency in March 2019 and adopting a framework for climate emergency response in March 2020, and recognizes that communities, neighborhoods and residents most vulnerable to climate impacts tend to be least prepared to manage and recover, and

WHEREAS, the City Council has identified several requests to forward to MML for its consideration as legislative priorities for the League.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Takoma Park authorizes the City Manager to transmit to the MML the following Legislative Action Requests:

1. The Council urges the MML to initiate or support legislation that bolsters the economy within Maryland municipalities and supports Maryland residents by:
 - **Supporting small businesses through tax incentives, grants, and technical assistance.** Businesses in our communities are negatively impacted by COVID-19 closures. Many of our small businesses were unable to qualify or apply for aid before limited resources at the federal and county levels ran out.

Legislation that supports these businesses during these trying times are critical to ensuring the economic vitality of communities across the state; and

- **Increasing workforce development opportunities (in collaboration with county government).** With a growing number of residents currently unemployed, it is important to support workforce development opportunities including but not limited to paid on-the-job training and apprenticeship programs, employment search assistance and expedited licensure pathways for residents with degrees from outside the U.S., funding for certificate programs that provide career advancement, funding assistance for job-training transportation and distance-learning equipment, and programs to assist veterans, returning citizens, and others transitioning to new employment needs; and
- **Providing support for childcare and senior daycare providers** to sustain their businesses and when possible, reopen and provide safe care for the youngest and oldest members of our communities. Senior daycare providers are not eligible for other funds and grant opportunities available to childcare providers and may need particular assistance.

2. The Council urges the MML to initiate or support legislation on police reform that would require:

- **Repeal of the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights (LEOBR).** Even for police officers with a proven track record of abusing and killing Black and Brown people, our state still gives law enforcement special rights against punishment for wrongdoing under the LEOBR – the most extreme such law in the country. Since LEOBR was enacted, it has allowed police abuse to go unpunished. Now is the time for accountability, and accountability requires pending LEOBR; and
- **Transparent investigations into police misconduct.** The Maryland Public Information Act (MPIA) currently blocks access to information about how police misconduct investigations are handled, wrongfully categorizing this information as confidential personnel files. This secrecy allows police departments to hide the details of police misconduct. Survivors of police misconduct, their families, and communities should have the right to know if their cases – all of their cases, without exception – are investigated properly or if they were even investigated at all; and
- **Limiting the use of force by law enforcement.** Maryland is one of a few states that do not have a statutory limit on police officers' use of force. For decades, officers have used violent and often deadly force against Black and Brown people, which is why legislators need to pass a law to address the use of force by law enforcement in Maryland; and
- **Expanding or establishing mobile mental health crisis units.** This would potentially reduce the number of mental health service calls police officers are currently required to address.

3. The Council urges the MD Municipal League to initiate or support statewide climate mitigation and adaptation legislation that would:
- **Assist municipalities with resources and technical support to meet state and local climate mitigation and adaptation goals;** and
 - **Provide state legislative authority to establish a 100% renewable electricity community choice aggregation or similar program;** and
 - **Provide targets and resources to dramatically improve the energy efficiency of buildings, especially low- and middle-income housing and multifamily buildings;** and
 - **Facilitate greater use of zero-emission vehicles, public transit, and other de-carbonizing transportation strategies;** and
 - **Embrace aggressive statewide targets and actions for climate mitigation and adaptation.**

Adopted this 22nd day of July, 2020

Attest:

Jessie Carpenter, CMC
City Clerk