

Introduced by: Councilmember Searcy

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

RESOLUTION 2020-21

**ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE ON
“REIMAGINING PUBLIC SAFETY TO ENSURE RACIAL JUSTICE”**

WHEREAS, the deaths of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd, along with many other Black and Brown people at the hands of the police, highlight the need for reform and a reimagining of public safety in our country; and

WHEREAS, the Takoma Park City Council embraces the great diversity in the City; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the history of racism in our country and community and how it has led to many current day disparities in education and job attainment, housing, and healthcare, as well as disproportionate and biased stops, citations, and incarceration rates for people of color; and

WHEREAS, the City Council passed Resolution No. 2017-28 committing the City Council to systematically and deliberately apply a racial equity lens in decision-making; and

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 Takoma Park City Council wants to review and reform the City’s approach to public safety to ensure racial justice.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND THAT the City Council will establish a Task Force to advise and provide recommendations on ways the City can reform public safety policies and procedures to ensure racial justice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Task Force will make recommendations on:

- The City of Takoma Park’s policing and public safety policies and procedures, including reviewing disaggregated data on arrests, citations, and stops, to ensure that the City’s public safety approaches advance racial justice;
- Approaches to engage and empower residents, particularly groups who have been marginalized, in policing oversight and community policing practices;

- Alternative models to better address issues that are commonly correlated with police interaction, such as mental health, substance abuse, and other social service needs; and
- The reallocation of the City's budget necessary to fund the Task Force's recommendations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Task Force will consist of up to 15 Council approved members; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Council will prioritize Task Force members from the following groups:

- Black and Brown residents or business owners that vary by income, education, sexual orientation, and gender identification
- Black and Brown youth
- Local experts in civil liberties, social justice, police reform
- A member from the resident committee, Police Chief's Advisory Board
- Mental health and other social service professionals
- Representatives from advocacy groups such as Casa De Maryland, NAACP, ACLU, MOCO Black Lives Matters, and Silver Spring Justice Coalition; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Task Force may include no more than three ex-officio Council approved members from the City of Takoma staff whose role is to collaborate with the Task Force as needed through a process driven by the Task Force members; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT ex-officio members will not be able to vote on Task Force recommendations but will be available to provide information that the Task Force needs to inform its decision-making. Ex-officio members' involvement and attendance at meetings will be determined by the Task Force members based on their needs and interests; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Council will appoint ex-officio members. However, ex-officio members may be changed once the Task Force is in place based on recommendations from the Task Force. The Council will prioritize initial ex-officio members from the City of Takoma staff in the following departments:

- Police Department
- Recreation Department
- Housing and Community Development; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City will obtain an external facilitator to guide the Task Force; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Task Force can decide how to organize itself including developing subgroups to address Task Force goals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Task Force may request and collect external information to aid in its decision-making including community outreach; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Task Force must submit to the City Council interim reports as well as a final report with recommendations by June 4, 2021; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Task Force may be dissolved after the Task Force's final recommendations have been presented to the Council by June 30, 2021. However, the Council may choose to extend the Task Force until a later date.

Adopted by the Council of the City of Takoma Park, Maryland this 23rd day of September, 2020.

Attest:

Jessie Carpenter
City Clerk