

Introduced by: Councilmember Seamens

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-20

SUPPORT FOR THE BENEFIT CORPORATION FOR AFRICA (BCA) FORUM

WHEREAS, the first benefit corporation legislation was introduced by then State Senator Jamie Raskin and implemented by the State of Maryland in 2010; and

WHEREAS, benefit corporation legislation, was the first of its kind in the nation, and allows for a hybrid of for-profit and nonprofit business models with the goal of generating community benefits along with profits, and

WHEREAS, Takoma Park entrepreneurs have embraced the benefit corporation model, with the first two benefit corporations in the nation being Takoma Park businesses; and

WHEREAS, Takoma Park residents established the Benefit Corporation for Africa (BCA) Forum to advocate for moving the United States and African countries from an aid-based to a trade-based relationship by incorporating benefit corporations and innovative investment mechanisms that will yield community-based socio-economic development in both the United States and Africa; and

WHEREAS, the 2023 City Council Priorities include a priority to plan and prepare for development in the City and region while maintaining the special character and economic and racial diversity of Takoma Park; and

WHEREAS, one strategy to meet this priority is to provide support for small businesses; and

WHEREAS, the City of Takoma Park is home to a large African diaspora, and the 2023 City Council priorities include a priority to advance a community of belonging where all residents have a sense of belonging; and

WHEREAS, advancing this priority by supporting the BCA Forum will maximize the representation of the full array of the African diaspora within the community.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Takoma Park supports the BCA Forum in its goal of moving Africa and the United States toward a more collaborative and mutually beneficial trade relationship that will support benefit corporations within the City; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in support of benefit corporations the City will co-host the BCA Forum, on October 28, 2023; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, the City of Takoma Park will waive the auditorium rental fee and will provide audio-video support for the event.

Adopted this 26th day of July, 2023.

AYE: Searcy, Fulcher, Dyballa, Gibson, Seamens, Smith
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: Honzak
ABSENT: None

Attest:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jessie Carpenter", written over a horizontal line.

Jessie Carpenter
City Clerk

NOTE: Subsequent to the adoption of Resolution 2023-20 we were notified of a conflict with use of the Auditorium on October 28. The date of the Forum was changed to November 11, 2023.