

Introduced by: Councilmember Smith

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

Resolution No. 2017-28

**Resolution Committing the City Council to
Systematically and Deliberately Apply a Racial Equity
Lens in Decision-Making**

- 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 how it has led to many current day disparities in education and job attainment, housing, and healthcare, as well as disproportionate incarceration rates for people of color; and
- WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes that racial inequities have become institutionalized in the policies and practices of many agencies, governmental and otherwise; and
- WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes that issues of racial equity must be addressed proactively and deliberately in the course of decision-making to increase the success for all groups; and
- WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the need to examine seemingly neutral policies and practices to determine whether they are contributing to racial inequity and where needed change or eliminate the policy or practice; and
- WHEREAS, the City Council engaged in open and honest dialogue with experts on the subject of racial equity and with each other during their 2017 Council Retreat; and
- WHEREAS, the City Council is interested in exploring and instituting methods that have worked in cities around the country to update, eliminate, or create government policies, practices, and programs specifically to dismantle existing racial disparities; and
- WHEREAS, the City Council acknowledges potential difficulties in assessing the impact of decisions on racial equity, but is committed to applying a racial equity lens in a systematic way in its decision-making processes with the goal of continuing to build an inclusive, equitable community and ensure a vibrant and healthy community for all Takoma Park residents; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has directed staff to begin including a "Racial Equity Impact Statement" on all agenda items beginning on April 5, 2017.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Takoma Park commits itself to systematically and deliberately applying a racial equity lens in its decision-making henceforth.

Adopted this 19th day of April, 2017.

Jessie Carpenter, CMC
City Clerk