

Office of the County Auditor
Auditor's Analysis

Council Resolution No. 142-2020

Introduced: September 8, 2020

Auditor: Michelle R. Harrod

Fiscal Impact:

The fiscal impact of this legislation will be approximately \$12,000, which is the County's portion of the cost for a facilitator for the Racial Equity Task Force.

The cost for the facilitator is not included in the Fiscal Year 2021 budget. However, the Auditor's Office believes cost savings realized from vacant positions and other expenses will be available to support these costs.

According to Departments noted in the legislation as providing support to this Task Force, the work would be performed within the normal course of business and would not incur additional costs.

Purpose:

This resolution proposes creating a Racial Equity Task Force (RETF) to study racial inequities within Howard County.

The RETF is expected to recommend legislative actions aimed at removing racial inequities. These recommendations shall be prioritized as short-term or long-term solutions and presented in a final report to the County Council on or before August 2, 2021.

Six subgroups are proposed to review specific areas in which racial inequities may occur. These include: Personal and Public Safety, Land-Use and Housing Policy, Economic and Workforce Development, Public Health and Environmental Policy, Education, and Legislative Process.

Other Comments:

An amendment is expected to update the subgroups with the three remaining open Council Appointments.

According to the sponsor of this legislation, the Horizon Foundation has agreed to work with the Council in engaging a facilitator. The Foundation has further agreed to pay the majority of the total cost of \$62,000.