

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2021 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 15

Resolution No. 146 -2021

Introduced by: The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

A RESOLUTION endorsing the Howard County Executive's intent to apply for membership with the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE).

Introduced and read first time _____, 2021.

By order _____
Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

Read for a second time at a public hearing on _____, 2021.

By order _____
Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted___, Adopted with amendments___, Failed___, Withdrawn___, by the County Council on _____, 2021.

Certified By _____
Michelle Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing law; TEXT IN ALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing law; Strike-out indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment

1 **WHEREAS**, Howard County is a diverse and multicultural society, and the County
2 should seek to acknowledge, analyze, and provide solutions to address and eliminate disparate
3 outcomes for residents, including racial equities; and
4

5 **WHEREAS**, Howard County should aspire to embody the values of diversity, inclusion,
6 equity, and respect for every member of the Howard County community; and
7

8 **WHEREAS**, the Howard County Local Children’s Board report, “Access to Opportunity
9 in Howard County: Making the Case for Equity,” recommended that racial and socioeconomic
10 equity should be given significant consideration when planning and developing policies and
11 practices that impact Howard County Government’s public services, programs and initiatives;
12 and
13

14 **WHEREAS**, the Howard County Executive sponsored, and the Howard County Council
15 approved, the renaming of the Office of Human Rights to the Office of Human Rights and
16 Equity; and
17

18 **WHEREAS**, the Howard County Executive created the Equity and Restorative Practices
19 Unit within the Office of Human Rights and Equity to identify any practices or policies needed
20 to ensure equity; recommend and implement training and competency-building; and develop
21 strategic community partnerships to advance equity in the county; and
22

23 **WHEREAS**, the Equity and Restorative Practices Unit has begun implementing racial
24 and social equity, opportunity, and quality of life audits in the community to identify institutional
25 and structural practices that produce inequities in services, policies, and access; and
26

27 **WHEREAS**, Howard County Government’s current and future efforts to eliminate
28 disparities, advance racial equity and opportunities for all can be strengthened by learning from
29 and exchanging best practices with like-minded jurisdictions that also seek to advance equity in
30 their communities; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) is a national
2 network of over 350 local government jurisdictions, established in 2014, to bring subject matter
3 leaders in government together to exchange information, collaborate, and advance racial equity
4 policies and programs; and

5
6 **WHEREAS**, GARE offers membership to local jurisdictions that have made
7 commitments to advancing racial equity; and

8
9 **WHEREAS**, GARE membership would provide Howard County with, *inter alia*, daily
10 access to network managers that can provide resources on addressing equity challenges,
11 opportunities to participate in monthly webinars on racial equity topics, cross-jurisdictional
12 consulting exercises with other GARE members, and networking opportunities that will ensure
13 that Howard County’s equity achievements serve as a model for its neighbors, the state, and the
14 country; and

15
16 **WHEREAS**, the County Executive hereby approves Howard County’s application for
17 GARE membership to achieve the outcomes mentioned in this Resolution; and

18
19 **WHEREAS**, there is adequate Howard County Government staff to engage in
20 membership responsibilities, including, regular participation in GARE network online activities,
21 incorporating GARE-supported models into government strategies, and sharing experiences
22 through different communications platforms; and

23
24 **WHEREAS**, the Department of County Administration can support the membership fee
25 using existing funds.

26
27 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the County Council of Howard County,
28 Maryland that it endorses this Resolution, thereby indicating support of the Howard County
29 Executive’s intent to join the Government Alliance on Race and Equity.
30

1 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this Resolution shall take effect on the date
2 of its adoption.