

**Introduced & 1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** June 16, 2020  
**Second Reading & Adoption:** August 6, 2020

## **City of Mount Rainier, Maryland**

### **Ordinance 06-2020:**

An Ordinance in defense of Black lives & a commitment to enacting policies that unequivocally defend Black lives and aim to undo the effects of systemic racism affecting Black lives in the City of Mount Rainier, Maryland.

### **Introduced By: Mayor Malinda Miles**

An Ordinance in defense of Black lives and a commitment to enacting policies that unequivocally defend Black lives and aim to undo the effects of systemic racism affecting Black lives in the City of Mount Rainier, Maryland.

**WHEREAS**, the first enslaved Africans were brought as captives to what is now the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1619; and

**WHEREAS**, Black people were bought and sold as slave labor for nearly 250 years and suffered unspeakable acts of violence, including assault, rape, mutilation, and murder at the hands of their captors; and

**WHEREAS**, the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States of America were enacted following the end of this country's Civil War, which resulted in the abolishment of the practice of slavery and the extension of civil and legal protections to Black people who were formerly enslaved; and

**WHEREAS**, many states adopted Jim Crow laws following the end of this country's Civil War and the enactment of the Thirteen, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments: and

**WHEREAS**, Jim Crow laws perpetuated the racist legal and social system existing prior to the Civil War and resulted in Black people being treated as second-class citizens: and

**WHEREAS**, the Civil Rights Act of 1866 guaranteed equal rights under law for all people who lived within the jurisdiction of the United States

**WHEREAS**, this Country's ugly history of state-sanctioned violence against Black people persists despite the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments and the adoption of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 and 1968: and

**WHEREAS**, Black people, generally, are unfairly targeted and profiled by law enforcement throughout this country at rates beyond what can be reasonably explained; and

**WHEREAS**, racial profiling of Black people results in disproportionate rates of arrest, incarceration, and overall exposure to the criminal legal system for Black people, and

**WHEREAS**, Black people experience inequalities across many aspects of daily living including, but not limited to, housing, education, employment, and health as a result of this Country's history, laws, and law enforcement practices, which erodes the quality of life for Black people; and

**WHEREAS**, Black people are justifiably outraged by this country's devaluation of Black life and humanity; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately forty-four percent (44%) of the residents of the City of Mount Rainier identify as Black or African American; and

**WHEREAS**, these residents deserve to be treated fairly, with dignity, and to have their humanity, existence, and contributions valued; and

**WHEREAS**, it is indisputable that Black lives matter.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED** that the Code of the City of Mount Rainier, Maryland, be and hereby is amended to add Chapter 10A, "Human Rights and Dignity", Section 10A-101, "Black Lives Matter", to read as follows:

**CHAPTER 10A – HUMAN RIGHTS AND DIGNITY**

**SECTION 10A-101. BLACK LIVES MATTER.**

THE CITY OF MOUNT RAINIER IS COMMITTED TO ENACTING POLICIES THAT UNEQUIVOCALLY DEFEND BLACK LIVES AND AIM TO UNDO THE EFFECTS OF SYSTEMIC RACISM AFFECTING BLACK PEOPLE IN THE CITY.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED AND ENACTED** that the Code of the City of Mount Rainier, Maryland, be and hereby is amended to add Section 10A-102, "Policies promoting racial justice in the City", to read as follows:

**SECTION 10A-102. POLICIES PROMOTING RACIAL JUSTICE IN THE CITY.**

**THE CITY OF MOUNT RAINIER COMMITS TO:**

- A. REVIEW POLICE USE OF FORCE POLICIES IN THE CITY OF MOUNT RAINIER,
- B. ENGAGING COMMUNITIES BY INCLUDING DIVERSE RANGE OF INPUT, EXPERIENCES, AND STORIES IN A REVIEW OF CURRENT AND FUTURE POLICE POLICIES,
- C. REPORTING FINDINGS AND REVIEWS TO OUR COMMUNITIES AND SEEK THEIR FEEDBACK, AND
- D. REFORM POLICE USE OF FORCE POLICIES IN THE CITY OF MOUNT RAINIER, MARYLAND.
- E. APPOINTMENT OF A FIVE PANEL CITIZENS' REVIEW BOARD TO RECEIVE, REVIEW, INVESTIGATE, AND ISSUE A REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON COMPLAINTS OF MISCONDUCT OF ANY MEMBER OF THE MOUNT RAINIER POLICE DEPARTMENT
- F. ADOPT COMMUNITY POLICING AS THE STANDARD FOR THE CITY OF MOUNT RAINIER, MARYLAND AND EXPLORE FURTHER REFORMS
- G. COMPLAINTS AGAINST AN OFFICER OR OFFICERS WILL BE MADE PUBLIC TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE
- H. A POLICY THAT ITS POLICE OFFICERS HAVE A LEGAL AND MORAL DUTY TO INTERVENE WHEN ANOTHER POLICE OFFICER DEMONSTRATES BAD JUDGMENT AND DOES NOT REPRESENT THE CORE VALUES OF THE CITY OF MOUNT RAINIER OR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO SERVE AND PROTECT.
- I. Adopt a Ban on No-Knock Warrants this clause will be known as the Breonna Taylor law.

**THIS ORDINANCE IS ADOPTED BY THE MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MOUNT RAINIER THIS 6th DAY OF AUGUST, 2020.**

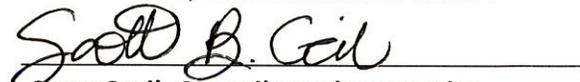
**Attest:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Latasha C. Gatling, Interim City Manager

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Malinda Miles, Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Celina Benitez, Councilmember Ward I

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Luke Chesek, Councilmember Ward I

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott Cecil, Councilmember Ward II

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bryan Knedler, Councilmember Ward II

