

**TOWN OF FOREST HEIGHTS
RESOLUTION 11-16**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF
FOREST HEIGHTS, MARYLAND URGING THE GOVERNOR AND
MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO REINSTATE STATE SHARED
REVENUE WHICH HAS BEEN DIVERTED FROM MARYLAND CITIES AND
TOWNS TO FUND STATE OPERATIONS; OR REQUESTING THEY PROVIDE
FOR A MORE DIVERSE REVENUE RAISING AUTHORITY TO
MUNICIPALITIES.**

Introduced by: Mayor Goodall

WHEREAS, the State has slashed vital State-shared revenues historically provided to municipal governments, on average, by more than 75% for this current fiscal year and by more than 90% for many municipalities;

WHEREAS, Future budgets approved by the Administration and the Maryland General Assembly continue these significant and untenable cuts to cities and towns;

WHEREAS, Municipal governments more than any other government form in Maryland rely on the property tax as their primary general fund revenue source;

WHEREAS, increases in property tax rates, cutbacks in local service provision, elimination of local road projects, and reductions in workforce are the sole options left to municipalities to offset this devastating loss of general fund revenues and incorporated municipalities' extremely narrow taxing authority prevents them from raising alternative funds to lost highway user revenues and police aid that have been diverted to balance the state's general fund; and

WHEREAS, this issue is of significant importance to the membership of the Maryland Municipal League and it is critical that the Administration and Maryland General Assembly take actions needed to rectify this serious problem;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council urges the Administration, for this current and future fiscal years, to submit a budget document to the General Assembly to reinstate to municipal governments full funding for highway user revenues and state aid for police protection; and that the Maryland General Assembly enact and the Governor sign into law enabling legislation to significantly broaden the authority of incorporated municipalities to raise own-source revenues to reduce the reliance of cities and towns on the property tax to fund municipal government services.

The Town of Forest Heights
Resolution 11-16

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect upon its passage.

PASSED this 17th day February of 2016.

APPROVED: By Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Forest Heights, MD

ATTEST:

THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE
TOWN OF FOREST HEIGHTS

Signature on file

Bonita C. Anderson, Town Clerk

Signature on file

By: _____
Jacqueline Goodall, Mayor

ABSENT

By: _____
C. Lynn Smith-Barnes, Council President

CERTIFICATION

I, hereby certify, as the duly appointed Town Clerk of the Town of Forest Heights, Maryland, that on the 17th day of February 2016 with 6 Aye votes and 0 Nay votes the aforesaid Resolution 11-16 passed.

Signature on file

Bonita Anderson, Town Clerk