



City of Takoma Park

Takoma Park Police Department

Lights On! Partners with the Takoma Park Police Department

Innovative, Community-Driven Program Partners with Law Enforcement and Auto Service Provider to Add Repair Vouchers to Safety Equipment Repair Orders at No Cost

Lights On! – a community-driven program with the mission to heal relationships between communities and law enforcement agencies – has entered into a partnership with the Takoma Park Police Department in Takoma Park, Maryland (TPPD). TPPD is the first municipal police department in Maryland to receive a grant from MicroGrants for this initiative. MicroGrants is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing people of potential with grants that spur economic stability by bridging the gap between their current state and a more successful future.

Under the program, TPPD officers on traffic stops can provide a voucher for a free repair, up to \$250, on mechanical problems with the vehicle. Some common mechanical violations include burned-out bulbs, broken turn signals, etc. TPPD is pleased to announce their partnership with RS Automotive, 7224 Carroll Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland 20912, for this program.

“The Lights On! Program is a way to build relationships between police departments and the communities they serve,” said Sherman Patterson, Vice President of Lights On! “Instead of punishing drivers for broken lights, we can fix the mechanical issue and mitigate what often becomes a downward spiral for community members in need. We are giving officers a new tool on their duty belt that creates a positive interaction, especially needed in these tense times,” said Patterson. For some families, a broken taillight or turn signal can sometimes mean choosing between a minor auto repair or buying groceries. Having to fix these repairs for safety is important for the driver and other drivers on the road, but these offenses can lead to further financial strain. This is a well-intended effort to help versus hurt community members.

"We are committed to helping the residents of Takoma Park in as many ways as we can. This program is a great part of that commitment," said Takoma Park's Chief, Antonio DeVaul. He goes on to say, "We once again appreciate our on-going partnership with RS Automotive in this new endeavor to relieve even a small part of any financial burdens felt by our community."

Participation in Lights On! requires a financial stake in the program. This is being drawn from funds built through Automated Traffic Enforcement (speed cameras). These funds may be used for traffic safety or related road safety issues. TPPD believes the Lights On! Program is a perfect use for these dollars.

The repair vouchers are given out during a routine traffic stop when giving a Safety Equipment Repair Order. Repair vouchers are not available on-demand.

The Lights On! Initiative will launch in the 20912-zip code on Tuesday, May 31. **The program is completely free to voucher recipients.** To learn more, visit LightsOnUs.org

About Lights On!

Lights On! Is a community-driven program which offers repair vouchers for participating law enforcement agencies and communities they serve. The program was founded in 2017. Officers can provide drivers with Lights On! vouchers redeemable for **free repairs** of broken lights at partnered auto shops. The vouchers reduce the financial burden that could lead to a potential downward spiral for community members in need as well as creates a positive interaction between drivers and officers to build or re-build trust. Lights On! was created by Don Samuels, founder of MicroGrants, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing people with grants that spur economic stability by bridging the gap between their current state and a more successful future.