

ATLANTIC CITY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Tuesday, January 21, 2019

Stockton University – Atlantic City Campus

1) REMARKS FROM DCA ACTING CHIEF OF STAFF AND ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER KIM HOLMES ON BEHALF OF LT. GOVERNOR SHEILA OLIVER

- a) Kim Holmes remarked about celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. Day on January 20 and the community service projects that many people do to honor his life and legacy. Dr. King would frequently talk about connection, community, collaboration and cooperation. These words are important to Atlantic City, and Lt. Governor Oliver asks the Atlantic City Executive Council to continue collaborating because progress is being made.
- b) Moody's Investor Service upgraded Atlantic City's bond credit rating by two notches. This rating upgrade followed a similar upgrade by S&P Global Ratings in November 2019. In its report, Moody's stated that the city has made real strides in adjusting its staffing levels, increasing operating efficiencies, and improving its liquidity, and in its efforts to diversify the economy beyond the gaming industry.
- c) Governor Murphy highlighted the ratings upgrades in his State of the State address last week. He also called attention to how DCA has enhanced its capacity and capabilities to provide robust assistance to municipalities, including Atlantic City, and to the great work we all are doing to reinvigorate the city.
- d) The City and DCA is working closely with Mike Epps, executive director of the Atlantic City Initiatives Project Office, to do more external events in 2020.
- e) Dr. Stephanie Bush-Baskette last week began work as business administrator for Atlantic City. Her professional career of more than four decades has included public service, academics, research, elected office, and law.
 - i. She most recently served as business administrator for the City of Bridgeton for almost three and a half years and teaches at Rutgers University's School of Public Affairs and Administration and the Center for Government Services with a current focus on government ethics.
 - ii. She was elected to three consecutive terms in the New Jersey General Assembly, representing the 27th legislative district and then served as Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs during the Florio Administration, becoming the first African American woman to be a member of any New Jersey gubernatorial cabinet.
 - iii. Dr. Bush-Baskette has done considerable research and teaching on the criminal justice system, particularly its impact on women of color and juveniles. She has founded the Sojourn Institute, which aims to promote social justice through research, training, technical assistance, and informed advocacy. In addition to the City of Bridgeton, she also served as business administrator for East Orange in Essex County and Hillside in Union County. She has been a member of the New Jersey Ethics Commission.
 - iv. Dr. Bush-Baskette's expertise in municipal administration, government ethics, and social policy issues make her uniquely qualified to serve as the city's top administrator.

- f) The city also welcomes Jacques Howard as the city's new Assistant Director of Planning & Development, a position that is critical to the city's growth and revitalization.

2) REMARKS FROM ATLANTIC CITY INITIATIVES PROJECT OFFICE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MICHAEL EPPS

- a) Michael Epps remarked that he looks forward to working with Atlantic City Executive Council members on any plans they have for summer internships/employment opportunities for Atlantic City youth.
- b) If Executive Council members have an item they would like to add to the monthly agenda, he asked them to please give him a call.
- c) Today is the first day for India Still, the new deputy director of the Atlantic City Initiatives Project Office.

3) ATLANTIC CITY UPDATE FROM MAYOR MARTY SMALL

- a) On tomorrow night's City Council agenda is an ordinance to create a department for recreation and youth. The city administration is looking to take care of Atlantic City youth in a big way.
- b) City in discussions with the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA), the Atlantic City Arts Foundation, and the African American historic museum to revitalize a building on Kentucky Avenue. The city would also like to put a recording studio in the building for city youth to write and produce music, and a television studio, which could be used to produce marketing that helps promote the city.
- c) City will partner with the Atlantic City Arts Foundation's 48 Blocks program to do art murals in City Hall with different themes.
- d) Recently held a productive meeting with the Atlantic Cape Community College campus in the city about job training for city residents.
- e) Bruce Weeks, the city's director of constituent services and small businesses services, will partner with Stockton University to provide training for small businesses in the city. The training will be specific to the needs of small businesses that sign up to attend.
- f) City is partnering with AtlantiCare to curb gun violence in the city.
- g) City is looking to address capital improvements and infrastructure needs in the city and is undertaking an assessment.
- h) Steven Perskie, an advisor to the mayor, will lead a review of the city's code enforcement beginning today. City administration is working to develop an ordinance to address short-term housing rentals. The city is researching what Jersey City and Asbury Park are doing and hopes to present findings in 90 days.
- i) The city is doing what it needs to do to address the vacant Trump Plaza property. The property shouldn't be demolished with taxpayer money when the billionaire owner is not maintaining the property. The building is becoming a safety hazard.
- j) Mayor Small has a radio show every Saturday on 96.1 FM to talk about positive things happening in the city. If Executive Council members want to be on the show on 96.1 to promote what they are doing, they can call the mayor to make arrangements.
- k) Mayor Small will be appearing on Power 105.1 in New York City to promote Atlantic City. He will also be going on Philadelphia radio stations to promote AC.

4) PUBLIC HEALTH: HEALTH ASSESSMENT UPDATE

- a) Rutgers University has drafted a report about its study of the city's public health office to see if the city is getting enough out of its shared services agreement with Atlantic County. The Rutgers study also looked at what the city is missing in terms of public health. The draft report is being reviewed.
- b) Atlantic County conducted a public health survey and recently released a report about the survey. AtlantiCare conducted a public health survey as well. Michelle McDonald, Vice President of Academic Affairs at Stockton University, and her office led an effort to review and summarize the surveys.
- c) Early review shows that not many Atlantic City residents participated in the Atlantic County survey, which calls into question how helpful the survey will be to getting insight about the public health landscape in the city. One interesting item in the Atlantic County study is that transportation was found to be a barrier to health care. This shows that more outreach is needed to inform city residents that there is a place in the city to get health assistance: the AtlantiCare HealthPlex, which is a federally qualified health center.

5) PUBLIC HEALTH: PRESCRIPTION DRUG DROP OFF

- a) Atlantic City Police Department hosts 'Coffee with a Cop' events throughout the year and will bring prescription drug collection boxes with them to these activities to dispose of drugs appropriately and safely.

6) CIVIC INFRASTRUCTURE: CRDA

- a) CRDA Executive Director Matt Doherty reported that CRDA is working to reduce the number of rooming houses in Atlantic City. CRDA has been able to reduce the number by nearly 34 percent with help from the city. The Authority has been able to accomplish this with existing regulations and will seek additional assistance from its board to close more such houses. Mr. Doherty said the more that rooming houses can be reduced, especially in the tourism district, the more the community can cut down on issues that stem from those houses while also expanding affordable housing in the area.
- b) Mr. Doherty highlighted Special Improvement Division activity in 2019 and called attention to such items as 715 tons of trash removed; 65 tons of recycling removed; 46,550 pounds of ice melt applied; 275 tons of river rock placed for landscaping; 2 new bus shelters purchased and installed, etc.
- c) The Neighborhood Coordination Officers program, which focuses on community policing and is funded by CRDA, is so successful that the Atlantic City Police Department (ACPD) wants to expand it. CRDA has asked ACPD to provide an in-person report to the CRDA board so it can consider funding an NCO expansion. The police department wants to expand the program to evening and night hours.
- d) Joe Jingoli of Joseph Jingoli Son Inc., which helped develop Hard Rock Hotel and Casino Atlantic City, said Hard Rock is promoting home ownership in Atlantic City to its workforce if that helps with CRDA's effort to curb rooming houses in the city. Mr. Doherty thanked Mr. Jingoli for the effort and said one of CRDA's frustrations with the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) is that many of these rooming houses don't have certificate of land use compliance but are still being allowed to operate by the state.

7) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: CHELSEA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

- a) Chelsea Economic Development Corporation is a new group trying to support the city's Chelsea neighborhood. The corporation is undertaking a neighborhood plan so that Chelsea can be eligible for grant funding out there, including Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Credit funding through DCA. The neighborhood plan is also being done in order to understand the needs of the community.
- b) The corporation will host public meetings in the Chelsea neighborhood to gather input about the community's needs. The corporation will provide flyers with meeting information to Mike Epps so he can distribute them to the Atlantic City Executive Council members to get the word out.

8) ATLANTIC CITY COMMUNITY FUND

- a) Atlantic City Community Fund is a tax-exempt charitable fund founded in 2017 to mobilize projects by and for city residents. All funds raised are for projects in the city and many of the fund's board members are city residents. The fund is always actively fundraising and will be able to provide \$30,000 in grant funding at a minimum for projects.
- b) The 2020 application cycle is currently open. Applications must be received by February 28, 2020. All information is available on the fund's website at <https://www.accommunityfund.org/>.
- c) The fund can only support 501c3 non-profits. Individuals seeking to get a grant can partner with a financial sponsor.

9) LAND USE PLANNING: ATLANTIC CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY

- a) Tom Hannon of the Atlantic City Housing Authority passed out a handout about Choice Neighborhood, a grant opportunity funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
- b) The Housing Authority is applying for a grant in partnership with the City of Atlantic City, The Michaels Organization and Stanley Holmes Village. The grant helps communities transform neighborhoods by revitalizing severely distressed public and/or assisted housing and catalyzing critical improvements in the neighborhood, including vacant property, housing, businesses, services and schools.
- c) The Housing Authority is more than a housing manager. It is involved in the community and in residents lives to improve quality of life.
- d) Stanley Holmes Village is slated to be demolished and rebuilt as a mixed-income, mixed-use community. The property is close to the new Shoprite supermarket that is coming to the city.
- e) Housing Authority has been told by HUD that its application is very likely to get Choice Neighborhood grant funding.
- f) The Michaels Organization has hired Kitchen & Associates of Collingswood, NJ, to put the grant application together.
- g) Housing Authority will host public meetings throughout all six wards of the city to get as much public input as possible.

10) YOUTH DEVELOPMENT: SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

- a) Joe Jingoli of Joseph Jingoli Son Inc. talked about his partnership with Pastor Collins A. Days, Sr. of Second Baptist Church in Atlantic City this past summer to address the increase in gun

violence among the city's youth. The initiative provided at-risk youth with a job doing projects that helped the immediate community, a paycheck, and a mentor.

- b) Mr. Jingoli said he and Pastor Days are going to do the program again this year. He is putting together a proposal and step-by-step guide for other casinos in the city. If casinos are interested, he can help pair them up with a faith-based organization to do something similar in other parts of the city for the upcoming summer.
- c) In doing the program this past summer, Mr. Jingoli found that several of the young people were hungry since school was out and they had no where else to reliably get food. He said this program is about getting youth off the street and getting them paychecks for good, positive work in their communities

11) GOOD OF THE ORDER

- a) The new president of the Greater Atlantic City Chamber of Commerce is Michael Chait, who previously served as the Executive Vice President of the Chamber.