

ATLANTIC CITY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Tuesday, April 20, 2021

Zoom Conference Call

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

- a) Commended all the organizations, particularly AtlantiCare, that are behind the work being done at the Atlantic County COVID-19 Vaccination Megasite at the Convention Center.
- b) The organization and efficiency on display there is helping thousands of people get vaccinated in New Jersey's continued fight against COVID. Real testament that Governor Murphy and First Lady Tammy Murphy received their first vaccination shot at the Convention Center Megasite.
- c) The pandemic has shown everyone how critical health systems and health officials are to the wellbeing of communities. This is especially true when it comes to addressing disparities in healthcare.
- d) This is why Lt. Governor Oliver was proud to have attended the groundbreaking of AtlantiCare's Medical Arts Pavilion in Atlantic City last month.
- e) When it opens, the Pavilion will offer expanded programs and services aimed at increasing city residents' access to care, including a maternal/fetal medicine program for high-risk patients; family planning services; and a Federally Qualified Health Center.
- f) The Medical Arts Pavilion will also provide a resource for the Atlantic City Health Department and strengthen health and medical education in the local community. It could lead to medical students and medical residents who work at the Medical Arts Pavilion living in the city.
- g) DCA looks forward to continuing to work with AtlantiCare in addressing health care disparities, as well as coordinating improved access to the appropriate level of care for the residents of Atlantic City.
- h) Reminded the Executive Council that the application period for Phase II of the COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program remains open.
- i) The program provides rental assistance to low- and moderate-income households that have had a substantial reduction in income or incurred significant costs as a result of the pandemic, including those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- j) Landlords may also apply for assistance on behalf of a tenant provided they have their tenant's permission.
- k) Applicants may be eligible for up to 12 months of rental assistance to help pay for rent arrears incurred after March 13, 2020, and future rent to the extent that funds are available.
- l) The application period will remain open until an adequate number of applications have been received to distribute the approximately \$353 million allocated to the program.
- m) Participants are being selected from the overall pool of applicants through a randomized rolling lottery based on eligibility and lottery criteria.

- n) Urged the Executive Council to get the word out so that people know about the COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program.
- o) Noted that the Murphy Administration continues to roll out assistance programs for small businesses throughout New Jersey.
- p) In April, the Governor signed into law five bills, which provide a total of \$100 million in federal COVID-19 relief aid aimed at helping New Jersey's economy recover from the pandemic. The bills include:
 - i. \$25 million for microbusinesses with five or fewer employees;
 - ii. \$15 million for arts and cultural venues;
 - iii. \$35 million for restaurants;
 - iv. \$15 million in the form of grants to small businesses and non-profits in need; and
 - v. \$10 million for child care providers.
- q) Most of the relief assistance will be administered by the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, which so far has provided more than \$250 million in aid to New Jersey businesses. The assistance aims to reimburse lost revenue as result of the business interruption caused by the pandemic between March 1, 2020 and the date of the grant agreement.
- r) Interested business owners need to pre-register to access the application. Pre-registration began yesterday and will close on April 29, 2021 at 5 p.m.
- s) The application will be available via a phased approach following the end of the pre-registration period. For example, applications will become available for restaurants and childcare providers on May 5th; for microbusinesses on May 10th; and for all other small businesses on May 12th.
- t) Applicants must complete the full application to be considered for grant funding. More information is available on the NJ Economic Development Authority website at NJEDA.COM.
- u) The Murphy Administration is committed to getting 4.7 million adult New Jerseyans vaccinated by the end of June. As of yesterday, all individuals aged 16 and older who live, work, or study in New Jersey are now eligible for COVID-19 vaccines.

2) REMARKS FROM ATLANTIC CITY INITIATIVES PROJECT OFFICE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MICHAEL C. EPPS, ESQ., AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR INDIA STILL

- a) Atlantic City Initiatives Project Office is looking at arts programs to stimulate the youth in the city. Hopefully expand it to a larger scale.
- b) The Project Office is working toward reestablishing a summer youth internship and employment program this summer.
- c) Continues to work with STEM pathways program and Mark Cuban Artificial Intelligence boot camp.
- d) Looking forward to exciting and productive summer as pandemic restrictions ease and things begin to open up.

3) REMARKS FROM MAYOR MARTY SMALL

- a) City of Atlantic City Business Administrator Anthony Swan reported out that Mayor Small was not able to attend the meeting because he was holding a press conference about the City of Atlantic City budget.

4) WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT: DR. BARBARA GABBA, PRESIDENT, ATLANTIC CAPE COMMUNITY COLLEGE (ACCC)

- a) Under leadership of Natalie Devonish, dean of ACCC's Worthington Atlantic City Campus and Workforce Development, ACCC secured approximately \$342,000 to do a program to help displaced workers get educational certifications in fields like medical technology, culinary arts, retail, customer service, and hospitality.
- b) Noted the Atlantic City Works Program, which provides training to Atlantic City residents who are unemployed or under-employed and Atlantic City casino employees who require training to help maintain your current job or obtain advancement. The program is funded through a grant from the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA).
- c) ACCC is applying for an offshore wind grant from the NJ Economic Development Agency; it could get up to \$3 million toward providing job certifications for a number of jobs in the offshore wind industry.
- d) ACC has done a lot to help the community during the pandemic. For example, nursing students did rotations at the Atlantic County COVID-19 Vaccination Megasite at the Convention Center; the college donated PPE; and it supported community food distributions. The goal is to create a road map to try and solve environmental challenges in these three cities. Then, if the work shows good results, the idea is to go back to NJDEP to make Atlantic City, Elizabeth, and Pleasantville permanent additions to the State's Community Collaborative Initiative.

5) ECONOMIC OUTLOOK: DONNA DANIELSON, TANGER OUTLETS, THE WALK

- a) Tanger Outlets The Walk in Atlantic City comprises 17 buildings on nine city blocks with Phase 1 completed in 2003, Phase 2 completed in 2007, and Phase 3 completed in 2013.
- b) Within the last year, stores such as Hugo Boss and Vera Bradley opened in The Walk. Retailers coming soon include Vegans Are Us, Pepper Palace.
- c) In 2020, The Walk opened almost 20,000 square feet of new retail space. In 2021, anticipate opening more than 18,000 square feet of new retail space.
- d) Working with the Atlantic City Police Department on putting a police substation in The Walk. The substation would be a place where police officers could work on their police reports. Tanger Outlets hires a police officer to walk the outlets every day.
- e) The Walk has scheduled events throughout the year. It is putting them out slowly this year due to COVID-19.
- f) Tanger Outlets The Walk gives back to the community through Tanger Cares, i.e. More Pink in October for breast cancer research and TangerKids Grants Programs. TangerKids has donated to Atlantic City public schools and Atlantic City High School for eight years. TangerKids supplied every student at Richmond Avenue school in the city with blue light glasses since kids are online more for their schoolwork.

- g) City of Atlantic City Business Administrator Anthony Swan asked if the gaming center opened yet in The Walk. Donna Danielson responded that Ideal AC eSports had opened and is doing very well.

6) GOOD OF THE ORDER

- a) People can submit letters of support for the Ocean Wind Project that is being developed by Orsted and PSEG to the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management at www.boem.gov. The wind farm project is in the permitting stage; looking at around 2023/2024 to actually break ground, but that might change depending on permitting.
- b) Terry Glebocki, CEO of Ocean Casino Resorts, is the new president of the Casino Association of New Jersey. Either she or a designee will attend the Executive Council meetings moving forward.
- c) Thanks to funding by the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA), there are now brand new restrooms on the Atlantic City boardwalk. The restrooms will be open by Memorial Day weekend. They are easy to be cleaned and will be air conditioned during summer and heated during winter. Every minute the bathrooms are open there will be an attendant to keep the bathrooms maintained.
- d) The CRDA board will consider later today an AtlantiCare initiative called Safe Beginnings, which is focused on reducing infant mortality rates. Will focus only on mothers in Atlantic City and will begin in July 2021. This initiative dovetails with the maternal/fetal medicine program for high-risk patients that will be housed at the Medical Arts Pavilion now under construction.
- e) September 25 is the date for the Latino Festival at Bader Field in Atlantic City.
- f) The Boys and Girls Club of Atlantic City will have summer camps open this summer. People have to submit applications for the summer camps. The Boys and Girls Club will soon open its outdoor café to serve Atlantic City families.
- g) South Jersey Industries reported out that it is making progress on 100 percent carbon reduction by 2040.