

# ATLANTIC CITY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Tuesday, December 11, 2018

11:00am – 12:16pm

Stockton University - Atlantic City Campus

## Members in attendance:

Sheila Oliver, Lt. Governor, State of NJ  
Amber Hamlett, Youth Representative  
Atiba Rose, Director, Atlantic City Public Schools  
Bob McDevitt, President, Unite Here Local 54  
Braxton Plummer, Senior Advisor, Department of Community Affairs (DCA)  
Donald Harris, Director, Atlantic City Public Schools  
Carol Ruffu, President, Chelsea Neighborhood Association  
Christina Fuentes, Senior Community Development Officer, NJ Economic Development Authority (EDA)  
Elijah Langford, Youth Representative  
Frank M. Gilliam, Jr., Mayor, City of Atlantic City  
Dr. Harvey Kesselman, President, Stockton University  
James Johnson, Special Counsel, Office of the Governor of the State of NJ  
Jason Holt, Business Administrator, DCA  
Jean McAlister, Dean of Resource Development, Atlantic Cape Community College (ACCC)  
Joe Jingoli, Jr., Partner, Hard Rock Atlantic City  
Joseph Kelly, President, Greater Atlantic City Chamber of Commerce  
Joyce Hagen, Executive Director Atlantic City Arts Foundation  
Libbie Wills, President, 1st Ward Civic Association  
Lori Herndon, President & CEO, AtlantiCare  
Marty Small, Council President, City of Atlantic City  
Matt Doherty, Executive Director, Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA)  
Michelle McDonald, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Stockton University  
Mike Epps, Director, Atlantic City Project Office  
Nick DiRocco, Director of Governmental Affairs, South Jersey Industries  
Reverend Hargrove, President, Fellowship of Churches  
Richard Tolson, Director, Bricklayers & Allied Crafts (BAC NJ)  
Rob Long, Deputy Commissioner, NJ DCA  
Sarah Clarke, Executive Vice President, Atlantic City Development Corporation (ACDEVCO)  
Terry Tucker, Chief of Staff to Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver, State of NJ  
Tom Hannon, Executive Director, Atlantic City Housing Authority (ACHA)

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## 1) **PROGRESS REPORT FROM LT. GOVERNOR SHEILA OLIVER**

- a) Welcome and opening remarks provided by Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver (LG)
- b) DCA is launching a website with access to the agenda, list of attendees meeting minutes, and updates regarding the Atlantic City Executive Council (ACEC), where the Atlantic City residents and community can access information regarding the Council and its initiatives
- c) **PROJECT OFFICE**
  - i) The LG introduced Mike Epps, local attorney and resident who will serve as the new Director of the Atlantic City Project Office
  - ii) Project Office should be fully up and running during the New Year
- d) **PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**
  - i) Key position to fill regarding Atlantic City's future
  - ii) Last round of interviews will be completed soon
- e) **FOOD DESSERT/SUPERMARKET**
  - i) Matt Doherty, Richard Tolson, and other CRDA board members have agreed to work on logistical work and possible locations of new supermarket in Atlantic City
  - ii) New supermarket is expected to break ground in 2019
- f) **PUBLIC HEALTH**
  - i) Focusing on three identified areas
  - ii) Action teams from ACEC council are committed to working on the three identified areas of public health concerns in Atlantic City
  - iii) Each team will be assigned a point person from the New Jersey Department of Health to provide support around the three identified areas mentioned below.
    - (a) Infant mortality and maternal health
    - (b) Obesity
    - (c) Addiction
- g) **STOCKTON SOLUTIONS CENTER**
  - i) Stockton Students as research assistants and interns, currently over 10,000 children live in Atlantic City. We need to begin to funnel the youth from Atlantic City into local institutions for internships
  - ii) ACEC members will coordinate ideas with Stockton Solutions Center to look at Public Policy and Research Ideas
  - iii) Center will also be looking at ways to create opportunities in the area and look at job market. Threat of automation and entry level jobs are being eliminated
  - iv) We would like internships that are focused on technology and skilled labor, such as moving forward with the FAA

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## 2) PROJECT OFFICE UPDATE

- a) The Project Office is the main implementation piece pertaining to the report authored by Jim Johnson, *Atlantic City: Building a Foundation for a Shared Prosperity*.
- b) Key functions of the Project Office
  - i) Providing staff for the ACEC and State Wide Coordinating Council, which State Agencies have been directed to support
  - ii) Channel for policy issues coordinated with the Stockton Solutions Center
  - iii) Keep ACEC and public informed of what is going on
- c) Mike Epps, new Director of Project Office, offered words of excitement and encouragement on heading his department

## 3) STOCKTON SOLUTIONS CENTER

- a) Michelle McDonald provided an update on the Stockton Solutions Center (SSC).
- b) SSC is putting together a website which should be up and running by year's end
- c) SSC has also received a tremendous amount of response from faculty in various areas
  - i) Public Health
  - ii) Economics
  - iii) Social Work
  - iv) Environmental Studies
  - v) Community Activism
- d) Website will also include various resources that are available and current projects
  - i) Economic Impacts of current work in hospitality
  - ii) Public Health – identify ways to move forward in action areas
- e) SSC developed a draft survey about engagement that will go out to additional faculty but is not limited to Stockton voices
- f) Dr. Kesselman also made the resources at the Stockton Polling Institute available should the ACEC need to use them

## 4) PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

- a) Briefing by Lori Herndon, President & CEO, AtlantiCare
- b) Overview of programs available for focus groups
  - i) Maternal Health and Infant Mortality
    - (1) Local providers do have offices at Healthplex
  - ii) Addiction
    - (1) Reduction of overprescribing of opioids by physicians
    - (2) Working on access to treatment
    - (3) Strengthening the current programs available to meet needs
    - (4) Creating a culture of recovery

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- iii) Obesity
  - (1) Pop-up farmer's markets
  - (2) Health and fitness strategy
  - (3) Partnering to provide resources for teens
  - (4) Work with school districts and healthy gardens surrounding healthy habits
- c) Only Acute care provider in the City
- d) Regional trauma program
- e) Healthplex: serves 500 to 600 people daily
  - i) Treatment and service regardless of ability to pay
- f) Questions from Lt. Governor Oliver about access to treatment for addictions
  - i) Biggest obstacles is eligibility
  - ii) AtlantiCare does offer acute detox -2 to 3 day detox regardless of insurance
  - iii) Currently working with John Brooks
- g) Question from Lt. Governor Oliver about partnering with NJ Housing & Mortgage Finance Agency (HMFA) as a hospital system
  - i) Hospitals may want to partner with HMFA for chronically homeless people
  - ii) Hot spotting – Individual that visit emergency room 30 to 50 times per month
  - iii) Wrap around services as the result of hot spotting and identification of patients in need
  - iv) Unstable housing leads to unhealthy behaviors
- h) Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> is the last day that people can apply for insurance under Affordable Care Act.
  - i) New Jersey enrollment is down about 10 or more %
  - ii) AtlantiCare offers counselors for the Affordable Care website
- i) Lori Herndon offered to host members of the ACEC to tour the Healthplex

## 5) INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

- a) Jim Johnson provided an update on status of program
- b) Goal set up an internship program focused on tech
  - i) Commitments of participation from Borgata, Greater AC Chamber, and Hard Rock
  - ii) Looking for commitments for summer interns as well
- c) Develop a pipe line for younger- grade school students, exposure to tech at a young age
- d) Joe Kelly – discussing implementation
  - i) Targeted partner is FAA
  - ii) Pathways programs
  - iii) Agreed to accept 20 interns – sending locations needed
- e) Lt. Governor Comment – If the issue is the financing of those slots at the FAA
  - i) LG's staff will facilitate a meeting with Labor Commissioner to focus on funding for interns from AC

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- f) Target population for internship program are high school students Atlantic City
- g) County is working on program for internship on vocational end
  - i) Building trades will be part of collaboration
  - ii) Doreen Tucker will reach out to Rich Tolson
- h) Mr. Jingoli – workforce development with Local 54
- i) Local 54 also has a workforce re-entry program
  - i) First cohort is coming out
  - ii) High retention rate through program
  - iii) Question: Would Division of Gaming Enforcement (DGE) support those going through the program?
    - (1) Upcoming meeting with DGE to discuss employment options
    - (2) Next cohort will be almost exclusively from Recovery Court
    - (3) Wrap around services will be needed for those in early recovery and those new to stable employment
- j) What is this marketplace and what do jobs look like in this marketplace – employ
  - i) Employment profile needed of the area

### 6) OTHER

- a) Hard Rock to provide a 16 person passenger van which is handicap accessible for Turning Point to use for transportation for individuals attending day programming
- b) Beyond 9am-5pm – Atlantic County and the State of NJ have resources to provide for programming during evening hours
- c) Lt. Governor's office would like to facilitate a meeting regarding state/county resources
- d) Can we quantify the cost of those individuals that are on the street and routinely using services?

### 7) COMMUNITY VOICE

- a) Civics have put together a list of priority issues
  - i) Chelsea Civic Association wants to give scholarships to vocational school attendees from Atlantic City
  - ii) Resident concerns – infrastructure and deteriorated bulkheads
    - (1) Residential neighborhoods – abandoned buildings
    - (2) Improve the recruiting and welcoming of convention business
    - (3) Customer service training for employees
- b) 1<sup>st</sup> ward civic association
  - i) Road conditions
  - ii) Penrose Bridge needs repairs – waiting on grant status and talking to County about maintaining the bridge

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- iii) Mayor Gilliam gave an overview of some of the road projects that the City has underway
  - (1) Constructive phase of conversation with County
  - (2) DOT have given us over 12M grants for street paving
  - (3) Street paving does get executed in phases
  - (4) Currently working on grants for bulk heading in lower Chelsea area.
  - (5) SJI redundancy loop – will include repaving portions of Atlantic Avenue
- c) Citizen’s Advisory Board
  - i) Council Meeting on December 12<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of Citizen’s Advisory Board reading
  - ii) Mayor Gilliam has taken steps to ensure city diversity is reflected in 3 slots allotted
- d) January Town Hall
  - i) Introduce detail about internship program
  - ii) Plan is to work closely with Civic Associations to facilitate town hall
  - iii) Director of Project Office will work to facilitate community-wide town hall
- e) Stockton noted that they would be happy to host the town hall

## **8) QUARTERLY REPORT AND Q1 PLANS**

- a) Draft report will be available to ACEC for review within the next week or so
  - i) 1<sup>st</sup> quarter goals for 2019
  - ii) Review of work completed in 2018
- b) Staff will send the questionnaire from Civics to ACEC group
- c) LG – Chelsea & 1<sup>st</sup> Ward Associations – DCA will coordinate with Director of Division of Super Storm Sandy and NJDOT to discuss some of the issues discussed above
  - i) Addressing the issues of bulkheads
  - ii) NJDOT move forward on road paving initiatives
- d) Women’s March on January 19<sup>th</sup>
  - i) Website of National Women’s March AC
- e) LG asking DCA communications staff to work with ACEC to target communication outlets to update media on the work that is going on regarding ACEC initiatives