

ATLANTIC CITY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Tuesday, July 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) Wished Atlantic City Councilman Morshed a quick recovery from the attack he experienced last week. Attack is under investigation.
- b) Recognized that the City Council voting on the needle exchange ordinance is scheduled for tomorrow's City Council meeting and trust that the matter will be addressed at that time.
- c) DCA has not said much about the ordinance and needle exchange program because there is work happening behind the scenes on this issue.
- d) There are more good things happening in Atlantic City than negative things.
- e) Congratulated Atlantic Cape Community College for winning the New Jersey Offshore Wind Safety Training Challenge that was hosted by NJEDA.
 - i. Atlantic Cape will receive a \$3 million grant to establish a Global Wind Organization (GWO) safety training program and facility to prepare New Jersey workers – many of them from Atlantic City – for jobs in the state's growing offshore wind industry.
 - ii. During Executive Council meeting in April, Atlantic Cape President Dr. Gabba said the college was applying for the grant and just a couple months later it was able to secure the funding.
 - iii. Huge news on the workforce development level because it's preparing the Atlantic City region's workforce for good-paying jobs in offshore wind.
 - iv. Huge news on the economic diversification level because it signifies professional opportunities beyond the casino and hospitality industry. It also puts Atlantic City on the path toward participating in the Blue Economy, which is a recommendation in the Atlantic City Restart and Recovery Working Group's report in May.
 - v. Huge news on an environmental level because it's part of the State's goal of generating 7.5 gigawatts of offshore wind power by 2035. In Europe, there are approximately 5,400 offshore wind turbines right now providing power to families and businesses. In the U.S., there are less than a handful of offshore wind turbines.
 - vi. There is a ton of room for growth and the Murphy Administration wants to position New Jersey as a hub for the offshore wind industry.
- f) NJEDA and Stockton University are also working to position Atlantic City as a central player in the esports industry.
 - i. Lt. Governor Oliver attended the event last month where NJEDA and Stockton signed a Memorandum of Understanding to put funding and resources toward establishing an Esports Innovation Center at Stockton's Atlantic City campus.
 - ii. Esports presents a great opportunity to cultivate an entirely new industry, as well as a chance to build industry leadership.

- iii. Can be a source of high-quality, high-wage jobs, such as software engineers, product developers, and content and event production roles.
- iv. Esports Innovation Center also gets to the heart of the goals of the Atlantic City Transition Report and Atlantic City Restart and Recovery Working Group Report – namely economic diversification and workforce development.
- v. Esports Center is focused on creating the most diverse innovation ecosystem in the country in an effort to help close the racial and gender wage and employment gaps.
- g) One other initiative to bring to Executive Council’s attention.
- h) In a few weeks an anti-eviction pilot program run by DCA will launch in three communities. One of those communities is Atlantic City.
 - i. The anti-eviction program will help low-income households stay in their homes when threatened with or facing eviction.
 - ii. It will also provide tenants with access to legal representation and a supportive safety net to help them avoid eviction and homelessness.
 - iii. The program’s approach is to coordinate legal and social services in an effort to prevent recurring housing insecurity while reducing barriers to justice in court.
 - iv. Atlantic City, East Orange, and Trenton were the three communities selected for this pilot program based on eviction filings, shelter entries, homelessness rates, local poverty levels, and data showing eviction as a main contributing factor of housing displacement.
 - v. As DCA gets closer to a launch date for the pilot program, it is working with the Administrative Office of the Courts and the three cities to get the word out to families facing eviction.
 - vi. Stay tuned for more information.
- i) Finally, state Senator Chris Brown has joined DCA’s Division of Local Government Services as Senior Economic Policy Advisor to Atlantic City. He has vacated his Senate position for the advisory role.
 - i. In his new position, Chris will spearhead state initiatives in Atlantic City.
 - ii. He has been a strong partner in State’s work in South Jersey and DCA is excited to have him on board to continue to stabilize the City’s finances; strengthen and diversify its economy; and tackle longstanding challenges such as poverty, unemployment, public safety, and public health.
 - iii. Will invite Chris to an upcoming Executive Council meeting so he can talk more about his role.

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

- a) Understands that Chris Brown, the Senior Economic Policy Advisor to Atlantic City, will work closely with the Project Office and the Project Office looks forward to working with him.
- b) The Project Office met with some of the Atlantic City civic associations and will bring to Chris Brown’s attention what was discussed with them.
- c) Atlantic City Mayor Small could not attend the Executive Council meeting because he is at press conference at the Atlantic City airport to announce new flights.

3) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: MATTHEW DOUGHERTY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CASINO REINVESTMENT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

- a) Briefed Executive Council on the CRDA annual report.
- b) If look at amount of money that CRDA invested in Atlantic City in 2020, it is potentially the most ever going back to 1984.
- c) Talked about amount of money invested in community development projects, including food distribution.
- d) Collaborated with AtlantiCare on new medical building and talked about its investment.
- e) Noted \$3.1 million loan to ACDEVCO and Stockton University for campus expansion.
- f) Highlighted CRDA-funded bathroom renovations on the boardwalk.
- g) \$1.7 million grant to City of Atlantic City for renovations to Gardners Basin promenade.
- h) Rooming house project – purchase of rooming houses and either demolition or renovation of them into affordable housing.
- i) Worked with Atlantic City chapter of Boys and Girls Club and the more than \$700,000 investment there in CRDA funds. Also worked with Boys and Girls Club on development of teen center.
- j) Grant awarded to Turning Point and grant to address human and sex trafficking.
- k) Talked about importance of special improvement district employees and keeping tourism district and boardwalk clean for visitors, which is no small task since last year Atlantic City allowed open containers of alcohol, leading to more trash.
- l) Atlantic City Business Administrator Anthony Swan thanked Matt Doherty personally for CRDA and his team. Called them a pleasure to work with and thanked them for their amazing, outstanding collaboration.
- m) Matt Doherty reported out some changes to CRDA leadership. Noted a new CRDA board chairman – Mo Butler. Said he understands urban areas, he knows the challenges Atlantic City faces and he knows what CRDA is trying to do. Said Mo Butler is going to be a tremendous asset to CRDA, which means he will be a tremendous asset to the City. He is the first African American chairman of CRDA.
- n) Atlantic City Project Office Executive Director Mike Epps said one of the things he’s been researching is Opportunity Zones and how the City can take advantage of the OZ initiative. Mike said he may be setting up another committee to better address this issue.
- o) AtlantiCare CEO Lori Herndon asked if CRDA will be doing send off for former board chair Bob Mulcahy. Matt Doherty said there won’t be a send-off, but CRDA will be doing resolution recognizing his service.

4) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: ORSTED

- a) Amber Hamlett started the presentation for Orsted. Talked about Ocean Wind project – one of the largest approved offshore wind farms in the US; hope to be operational in 2024.
- b) Talked about the Jingoli Competitive Edge program to get Atlantic City residents interested in different professional opportunities. For example, working on transforming shipping

container into agro-farm. Did this project with Atlantic City chapter of the Boys and Girls Club.

- c) Vince Maione of Orsted said NJBPU recently approved a second solicitation award to Orsted for the Ocean Wind project. Orsted happy to receive the award.
- d) Excited to continue this journey of bringing New Jersey offshore wind.
- e) Project will serve half a million homes with offshore wind by the end of this decade.
- f) Project will create a lot of investments; for example, port in Paulsboro getting resources to make wind turbine parts here in NJ.
- g) Bringing turbine manufacturer into the state of NJ, which is key.
- h) O&M facility will be constructed in Atlantic City.
- i) Orsted investing in the community through Pro-NJ Grantor Trust with an additional \$8 million.
- j) Katharine Perry, an environmental manager with Orsted, said O&M facility will be built near Clam Creek in Atlantic City Marina district.
- k) Working on the design of the facility now – will provide support to construction of offshore wind farm.
- l) Once wind turbines are built, this O&M facility will provide maintenance resources for the turbines.
- m) Anticipate construction beginning next year.
- n) Project will involve some dredging of the marina and will create 20-50 construction jobs.
- o) During operation phase of facility 69 technical jobs will be housed there; those jobs will come online in 2024.
- p) Vince Maione said that at this time Orsted doesn't anticipate using Atlantic City for interconnection purposes in either first or second phase of Ocean Wind project.
- q) Talked about where people and small businesses can go online to become a supplier for the Orsted project.

5) GOOD OF THE ORDER

- a) Atlantic city civic associations noted project to develop cultural resources database. The Atlantic City Library has expressed interest in doing this. Someone should reach out to the library to advance this project.
- b) Executive Council will talk about meeting in person. Project Office wants to get everyone's feedback on this since pandemic is uncertain right now.