

ATLANTIC CITY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Tuesday, August 20, 2019

Stockton University – Atlantic City Campus

SUMMER INTERNS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- Several members of the Executive Council acknowledged and then introduced some of the youth who participated in the summer internship program in Atlantic City, including those who worked on a mural project that was a collaboration between the Atlantic City Arts Foundation and Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City. All the interns were commended for having a positive impact on the city.

ENGLEBERG SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

- Stockton University President Harvey Kesselman announced the launch of the Engleberg Scholarship Program for Stockton University Atlantic City students. A \$1 million donation from the Englebergs was made to establish the program, which focuses on professional development and will include internship opportunities. The four students who were awarded this year's scholarships were announced.

1) PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT: NEW JERSEY COMMUNITY CAPITAL PRESENTATION

- a) New Jersey Community Capital introduced their mission to creating safe and vibrant neighborhoods that help to build place and how they create opportunities for people to promote economic mobility. They also discussed their mission of creating living wage jobs, education opportunities, and affordable housing.
- b) They are building cross sector partnerships to affect long term change.
- c) Main areas of impact: lending, tax credits, community strategies, and restart.
- d) **Community Lending** – New Jersey Community Capital is a non-profit lender across all sectors including housing, education, and economic development. They can help in Atlantic City with tax credits for development of projects such as a supermarket. \$10 million was dedicated for that purpose.
- e) **Community asset preservation corporation (CAPC)** focuses on neighborhood stabilization to build homes to healthy protocol standards.
- f) New Jersey Community Capital has partnered with RWJ Barnabas in Newark and Paterson to develop affordable housing. It wants to establish such partnerships in Atlantic City.
- g) **Restart program** buys distressed mortgage loans to keep families in their homes and to bring mortgages down to current value of the home. They have modified over 1,000 home mortgages already.
- h) 45-50% of the homes New Jersey Community Capital purchases are vacant so they redirect them as affordable housing opportunities. The New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency is partnering with them and Atlantic City is a primary target for this program to keep families in their homes and repurpose vacant properties.
- i) Governor's Special Counsel Jim Johnson asked how New Jersey Community Capital identifies the families that need help. They said they coordinate with FHA to find out which homes are in distress.

- j) Mr. Johnson asked if the Atlantic City clergy could help identify the families that could use this help. Rev. R. Fulton Hargrove II, president of the Fellowship of Churches of Atlantic City and vicinity said he can help connect New Jersey Community Capital with families. It was also noted that word can be spread through the civic associations in the city.
- k) New Jersey Community Capital's other focus is **Community Strategies** to help change the systems in place. Their program works at the community level to put in place neighborhood revitalization strategies with local and state government. They have secured a NeighborWorks America Grant for neighborhood marketing plan for greater Bungalow Park and they are working with the Venice Park Civic Association on neighborhood housing and revitalization.
- l) Mr. Johnson asked if they work directly with the civic associations. New Jersey Community Capital said yes and noted they also work with local governments to get the policies in place and use the estate tools available to reclaim abandoned properties and to help make the rental housing standards better.
- m) Mr. Johnson said access to professional daycare is vital.
- n) Mayor Gilliam said that Bungalow Park is successful because of New Jersey Community Capital programs. He stated it is encouraging that the organization is earmarking funds for the city in a variety of ways and said New Jersey Community Capital will help bring other financial institutions to the city.
- o) The organization said they are working on a rental list and vacant list to identify and target the properties in distress to gain control of and repurpose them.
- p) New Jersey Community Capital said they do early childhood lending to create more facilities with early childhood care. They agree that is part of building the community. They have a sector that focuses on childcare.
- q) Mr. Johnson noted that only 1 in 5 children in Atlantic City have access to professional childcare and the need is tremendous. He noted that older siblings are missing school to care for younger siblings because their parents both need to work. He would like a near term initiative to address this need.
- r) New Jersey Community Capital also noted that the schools are partnering with them to identify the need to build housing for families.
- s) The final program presented was **homeownership counseling and mortgage products** through which New Jersey Community Capital works with partners on down payment assistance and counseling.

2) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: ØRSTED PRESENTATION ON OCEAN WIND BY KRIS OHLETH

- a) Ohleth noted Ørsted is building the nation's biggest wind farm in Atlantic City.
- b) Ørsted is the global leader in offshore wind. Over 5,600 MW in operation and over 4,300 MW are under construction.
- c) The federal government leases out the ocean bottom and Ørsted builds wind farms.
- d) For NJ, the project is called Ocean Wind. It will have 1,100 MW, making it the largest wind farm in the U.S. to date and powering 500,000 homes. They will start construction in the early 2020s and be operational by 2024. The project is expected to create over 3,000 jobs for the region and clean energy. The wind farm will be 15 miles off the coast of Atlantic City at its closest point with minimal visual impacts.
- e) Ørsted opened their New Jersey office in the Atlantic City Bella building in May 2018.
- f) They will be looking for summer interns for this office next year.
- g) Ørsted signed an MOU with Stockton University to engage with the community for research, development, and surveys.

- h) Mr. Johnson noted city students are looking to engage in STEM opportunities. He wants to know how Atlantic City high school students can get engaged in those opportunities. Ohleth said Ørsted will look to local internship programs like Joe Jingoli's at Hard Rock to create live classrooms for high school juniors and seniors to learn about construction, engineering, architecture and more. Mr. Johnson will follow up on linking these internship opportunities.
- i) Ocean Wind has committed to a \$15 million trust to retrain and retool and enable minority-owned businesses, women-owned businesses, and small businesses entry to the wind industry and for infrastructure development. They would like to help retool local and NJ companies to help build the wind industry.
- j) They noted they want broad engagement across a spectrum of stakeholders – local, NGOs, fishing, academic, and research and development.
- k) An Executive Council member question came up regarding federal government permitting in Massachusetts because of lack of engagement in the fishing community. Ørsted said they are engaging with the fishing community to ensure they are moving forward confidently.

3) PUBLIC SAFETY: NEWARK VISIT

- a) Mike Epps, executive director of the Atlantic City Initiatives Project Office, spoke of the issue of youth violence and how to address it. He said Atlantic City can learn from other communities and talked about how the Atlantic City Citizens Advisory Board traveled to the City of Newark with Atlantic City youth, educators, and law enforcement.
- b) Newark's program focuses on making youth active participants in society. The Atlantic City contingent also met with a victims' outreach program in Newark. Mr. Epps said it was a great learning experience and they will bring that knowledge back to Atlantic City to move projects forward to stem the wave of youth violence and advance pathways to success for youth in Atlantic City.
- c) Mr. Johnson spoke of the trauma experienced by the youth at the funerals of the recent gun violence victims. He asked if Atlanticare resources can be accessed to address crisis issues like this.
- d) The Executive Council member from Atlanticare said the health system can be contacted to provide staff and resources in such situations. Atlanticare is the city's designated trauma center and they have a responsibility to provide education and services and are willing to participate. Mr. Johnson agreed they need to sync up the contacts.

4) QUARTERLY REPORT

- a) Mr. Epps noted the quarterly report had been handed out Executive Council members to update them on progress being made. He said he looks forward to continued cooperation and participation as they move into the next quarter.

5) GOOD OF THE ORDER

- a) Latino Festival update www.aclatinofest.com. Planning is going well. 1,500 registrants online already, expecting to exceed 3,000. The event is on 9/22/19 from 12-8pm at Bader Field.
- b) Rev. Hargove said the Fellowship of Churches wanted to engage after the recent gun violence involving city teens and created a practical approach by gathering 20 at risk youth. They got a grant and offered them a week's worth of work with one day focused on personal development

and one day on therapy. It was a very successful outcome. The participants want to continue the program.

- c) The Executive Council member from the Atlantic City Arts Foundation mentioned the Newark lead pipes water issue and wants to alert Atlantic City residents to keep an eye on that situation.
- d) On the first Saturday of September, First Lady Tammy Murphy will host a Family Festival at Pennsylvania Avenue school in Atlantic City. The city is a focus of this effort due to high infant and maternal mortality rates. The Executive Council is encouraging people to attend and to spread the word.
- e) It was noted that the City does not yet have a plan to repave city streets and clean them.
- f) For people living in the First Ward, the Neighborhood Coordination Officers for the ward are having a cookout at 5 p.m. tonight.
- g) Mayor Gilliam noted that it's been a pleasurable experience this year working with the Executive Council and the Atlantic City Initiatives Project Office, which created and began implementing a plan of action. He said this has started a positive trend that is catching fire. He said the community is starting to see how they can engage. Youth, community investment, housing – these things would never be in place if this group hadn't gotten together. He called for a round of applause for everyone for being a part of this group.
- h) Mr. Epps closed out the meeting at 11:29 a.m.