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News

Mercer economic bigwigs try to tout importance of Trenton

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TRENTON — Mayor Tony Mack rolled out a powerhouse Economic Advisory Council on Wednesday in an effort to cultivate a business revival in a capital city yearning for revitalization.

Mack reached into a playbook developed by former Trenton Mayor Doug Palmer by connecting with former Mercer County Executive Robert Prunetti.

Currently president and CEO of Mercer County Regional Chamber of Commerce, Prunetti co-chairs the Council with Phillip Kirschner, president of New Jersey Business & Industry Association and Diana Rogers, executive director of Capital City Redevelopment Corporation.

Prunetti said Trenton plays a vital role in Mercer County.

“We believe that as (Trenton) goes so does the rest of the central Jersey region. We believe that a strong capital city strengthens the rest of the area,” Prunetti said.

Prunetti outlined initiatives that “are doable and yet significant. We know that these are hard economic times. We know that there is not a lot of money around to do some things we want to do. But we also know that there are things we can accomplish with planning.”

The group, which includes many upper level executives, intends to focus on downtown Trenton first with upgrades in streetscaping, lighting and an improvement of gateways.

Prunetti said officials hope to create a “town within a town” that includes good restaurants, shops, and abundant public parking.

Mack pledged a safer downtown, adding that residents can expect an almost immediate deployment of city police on downtown blocks.

“You’re going to see a greater police presence,” Mack said. Police on foot patrols will be seen within two weeks.

The Council expects to transform downtown Trenton into a center of business, culture, education, heritage-building, and a prosperous livable community,” according to Mack.

“I am very grateful for the tireless efforts and numerous discussions of the numerous stakeholders, property and business owners, who communicated their concerns about the future development of the City of Trenton,” Mack remarked.

The Economic Advisory Council is made up of senior level executives from around the region who play a vital role in the City of Trenton’s fiscal future.

Mack said proposed plans include waterfront development and an accentuation of the city’s history, natural assets and resources.

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