

ATLANTIC CITY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Tuesday, September 21, 2021

Atlantic Cape Community College,
Worthington Campus

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

- a) Lt. Governor Oliver couldn't attend today's meeting because she is in Jersey City for a meeting about bringing the 2026 FIFA World Cup to New Jersey and New York.
- b) Lt. Governor wanted to start today's remarks by thanking the following Executive Council members who have really stepped forward to support the Mark Cuban Foundation's Artificial Intelligence Bootcamp and 2.0 Apprenticeship project for cybersecurity and data analytics. These members include the:
 - i. Atlantic City School District
 - ii. South Jersey Industries
 - iii. Atlantic Cape Community College
 - iv. AtlantiCare
 - v. Ocean Casino Resort; and
 - vi. Atlantic City Electric.
- c) The Atlantic City Initiative Project Office's Implementation Plan lists creating internship and apprenticeship opportunities for Atlantic City youth as a priority; that is what this group of stakeholders is doing.
- d) Because of this collaborative work, the Mark Cuban Foundation already designated Atlantic City as a host site for the camp in 2022.
- e) Atlantic City had the highest number of applicants (34) of all their camp sites across the nation. Mark Cuban Foundation and its camp partners were pleased with the Project Office's and AC School District's work to get students interested.
- f) Another priority has been to bring a full-service supermarket to Atlantic City.
- g) Later today the CRDA is scheduled to vote on plans to build a Shoprite near the Convention Center and The Walk.
- h) If approved, this will be the first time in more than 15 years that Atlantic City has its own supermarket.
- i) The Lt. Governor talked about emergency rental assistance last week during the Atlantic City Restart and Recovery Working Group meeting, but she thinks this assistance is so important for families that we want to highlight it again today.
- j) State has over \$1 billion in federal rental assistance to deliver to households that need it.
- k) DCA has already disbursed \$273 million of the funds, which puts New Jersey in the top tier of states to get emergency rental assistance out.
- l) Urging people who have had difficulty paying their rent to apply. Visit the DCA website at nj.gov/dca/ to get started.

- m) Need Executive Council's help in letting people know that this assistance is available. Spread the word among your networks especially since the eviction moratorium in New Jersey is winding down.
- n) Last month, an anti-eviction pilot program run by DCA launched in Atlantic City.
- o) Anti-eviction program is helping low-income households stay in their homes when threatened with or facing eviction; also providing tenants with access to legal representation and a supportive safety net to help them avoid eviction and homelessness.
- p) DCA is working with the Administrative Office of the Courts to directly reach families in Atlantic City who are facing eviction.
- q) Gave example of military veteran in Atlantic City who was already helped by the pilot program.

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

- a) Community walk scheduled for Thursday afternoon starting at the All Wars Memorial Building. Coalition for Safe Community, NAACP, and Acting NJ Attorney General Andrew Bruck will be participating in the walk. Will start at 4 p.m.
- b) Reentry assistance program job fair hosted by Casino Control Commission coming up soon. Will share information to Executive Council members to distribute to their networks.

3) YOUTH DEVELOPMENT: NJ SCHOLARS PROGRAM

- a) Elijah Langford, Community Outreach Coordinator for the Project Office, introduced Shawn Valentine, a representative of the NJ Scholars Program, a nonprofit organization focused on the development of youth basketball players, both on and off the court. The program's goal is to train and develop the players and maximize their exposure through competing in high exposure tournaments and events.
- b) Mr. Valentine said he is from Sicklerville, NJ and graduated from Winslow High School. He is trying to expand knowledge of the program, which aims to give middle and high school students the opportunity to become the best versions of themselves. NJ Scholars will have basketball program this fall and winter coupled with nutrition information; can form lifelong friendships from youth sports.
- c) City of Atlantic City Business Administrator Anthony Swan asked how the City can interface with the NJ Scholars Program. Mr. Valentine said the City could help bring awareness of the program to the community. The City could also help with fundraising efforts.
- d) Elijah Langford said he will work with Mr. Valentine to connect him with City staff to discuss the details.
- e) Stephanie Koch, CEO of Boys and Girls Club of Atlantic City, said she has been working behind the scenes with Elijah on bringing the NJ Scholars Program model to Atlantic City; said there are many great athletes in the city, but they come from families who don't have the money to pay for AAU basketball clubs where they can be identified by college scouts. This NJ Scholars Program offers them an opportunity for exposure to college recruiting.

- f) Mike Epps said he understands not all Atlantic City youth are interested in sports. This is why the Project Office is also looking at other activities and interests for youth.
- g) Elijah Langford said the Project Office is starting with basketball because of the strength of this NJ Scholars Program and the fact that there is a lot of basketball talent in the city.

4) GOOD OF THE ORDER

- a) The Atlantic City Latino Festival is happening in Atlantic City this weekend; Project Office circulated a flyer to the Executive Council members.
- b) Amber Hamlett, representing Ørsted, introduced the Executive Council to new members of the Ørsted team. Davon McCurry will be head of projects in Atlantic City; he will participate in the AC Executive Council meetings moving forward.
- c) Mike Epps mentioned the Atlantic City Community Fund reception at Hard Rock Cafe from 6 pm to 8 pm today.
- d) The Chelsea Economic Development Corp is hosting another planning meeting/session to get community input about the Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Credit plan for the Chelsea neighborhood. The meeting begins at 6 pm at Our Lady Star of the Sea Church and School.