

# ATLANTIC CITY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Tuesday, July 16, 2019

## Stockton University – Atlantic City Campus

### 1) REMARKS FROM GOVERNOR'S SPECIAL COUNSEL JIM JOHNSON

- a) Addressed youth gun violence and recent deaths of two Atlantic City teenagers who were fatally shot.
- b) 200 more city youth are participating in the Boys and Girls Club of Atlantic City this summer compared to last summer as a result of DCA funding. Also, more youth are participating in the Police Athletic League this summer due to CRDA funding. Additionally, the City and State's summer youth employment and internship program is reaching approximately 100 young people in the city.
- c) The youth who haven't been touched are those most at risk of being shot or doing the shooting. Twenty (20) young people who are among those most seriously at risk are participating in a neighborhood work program organized by local churches.
- d) On Monday, July 15, Governor Murphy hosted a conference call about gun violence in Atlantic City to work through how to apply worthwhile anti-violence models in Atlantic City and get at-risk youth involved in productive activities and how to address the childhood trauma that comes from gun violence.

### 2) REMARKS FROM LT. GOVERNOR SHEILA OLIVER

- a) Murphy Administration is very focused on the issue of gun violence.
- b) First and foremost, gun violence affects families and residents' quality of life. It also affects business development.
- c) Before investing in a community and creating jobs, many developers and business owners require a safe environment.
- d) Noted that Governor Murphy was scheduled to sign gun control legislation on July 16.
- e) Thanked everyone at the meeting for what they have done so far to address gun violence in Atlantic City and encouraged them to do more.

### 3) PUBLIC SAFETY: UPDATE ON VIOLENCE

- a) Atlantic City Schools Superintendent Barry Caldwell said that in order to curtail gun violence, the community must intervene in children's lives as early as pre-K through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade because of the violence some may have seen at home and in their neighborhood.
- b) During the school year, the city public schools have students from as early as 7:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with evening recreation programs after the school day.
- c) The school district recognizes that students' parents are in need of social and emotional help; therefore, the district is looking to invest in this area.
- d) Bert Lopez of the Hispanic Association of Atlantic County said that something must be done to get the guns off Atlantic City streets.
- e) Stockton University noted it has a program that helps students in grades 7 through 12 with college readiness and said it is important to reach children as early as possible to get them thinking about higher education.

- f) Jim Johnson noted that violence can be like a contagion because as violence increases, it resets the norms of what appropriate responses to arguments are.
- g) Lt. Governor Oliver talked about Moms Demand Action, a national group focused on ending gun violence. She said the group has strong New Jersey chapters and supports families who have lost loved ones to gun violence. The group will be starting a chapter in Atlantic County.
- h) Jim Johnson said some communities don't have a mass shooting on one day, but on a series of days. He said no one wants to see that happen in Atlantic City.

#### **4) LAND USE/PLANNING**

##### **a) CRDA PRESENTATION**

- i. CRDA presented its GIS/Parcel viewer, which is a web-based platform on which people can input any address in Atlantic City to get information about that property parcel. There are approximately 17,000 properties in the city.
- ii. The viewer has additional layers such as neighborhoods, zoning areas, schools. A layer for Opportunity Zones will be added in the future.
- iii. Mayor Gilliam said this is a good tool to use to reach out to the investment world about properties that are available in Atlantic City for development and redevelopment.
- iv. Jim Johnson said CRDA may want to create a small working group with the Atlantic City Police Department and the City of Atlantic City to discuss how these GIS systems can speak with each other.

##### **b) STOCKTON UNIVERSITY EXPANSION**

- i. Stockton University President Harvey Kesselman said the current and only residential building on Stockton University's Atlantic City campus is at 100 percent capacity.
- ii. Stockton wants to build a new residential building on Atlantic Avenue in the city and wants to keep the momentum going on its Atlantic City campus.
- iii. Dr. Kesselman asked for any support the Atlantic City Executive Council can provide to help advance Stockton's new residential building project.

#### **5) CIVIC INFRASTRUCTURE: SUPERMARKET UPDATE**

- a) Proposals in response to CRDA's Request for Proposals are due to CRDA by the week of July 21. CRDA is expecting between two and four responses.
- b) CRDA is set to begin evaluating the proposals it receives after July 23.
- c) CRDA hopes to announce the developer selected at the next Atlantic City Executive Council meeting.

#### **6) YOUTH DEVELOPMENT: PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS THROUGH INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS**

- a) Atlantic City youth participating in the summer internship program had an orientation on July 15. Interns come from Montclair University, Stockton University, Rowan University, Farleigh Dickinson University, Morgan State, and Atlantic Cape Community College.
- b) The interns have been placed at municipal court, AtlantiCare, Stockton, the Atlantic City Initiatives Project Office, the Mayor's Office, and the City's planning and development office to name a few.
- c) The internship program will run for about six weeks. Moving forward, it will be a greater and broader program.

- d) Also, the Atlantic City Arts Foundation and Hard Rock Hotel and Casino Atlantic City are supporting internships for about 12 city youth some of whom are at-risk youth.
- e) A press conference is scheduled for July 18 at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino to announce the Atlantic City Arts Foundation internships.

**7) PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT: GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

- a) CRDA Executive Director Matt Doherty and City of Atlantic City Planning and Development Director Barbara Woolley-Dillon will serve as tour guides on the bus tour of Atlantic City development projects during the Governor's Conference on Housing and Economic Development, September 16-17.

**8) CIVIC INFRASTRUCTURE: 1<sup>ST</sup> & 2<sup>ND</sup> WARD TOWN HALL**

- a) The Atlantic City Initiatives Project Office is looking to organize smaller town hall events to encourage greater community engagement and input.
- b) The first "mini" town hall will be held for residents of the City's first and second wards and will follow the same format as the town hall held in January 2019 at Boardwalk Hall.
- c) Mini town halls will subsequently be held for the City's third and fourth wards and fifth and sixth wards.
- d) Mayor Gilliam asked if a mini town hall could be held for City Hall staff. The Atlantic City project office responded in the affirmative.

**9) CIVIC INFRASTRUCTURE: LATINO FESTIVAL**

- a) The Atlantic City Initiatives Project Office is working with the Hispanic Association of Atlantic County and other organizations to resurrect the Latino Festival after 12+ years of dormancy.
- b) The festival will take place from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. on September 22 at Bader Field in Atlantic City.
- c) The idea came out of the Latino Town Hall in June.
- d) Funding for the festival is coming from CRDA.
- e) The Latino Festival will highlight Latino culture, music and heritage. The festival will also be used as a resource opportunity; so non-profit groups will be in attendance to distribute information and literature.
- f) Organizers are hopeful that around 3,000 people will attend.

**10) GOOD OF THE ORDER**

- a) CRDA has received overwhelmingly positive feedback about the Gardner's Basin community concerts that were resurrected this year. The next concert is scheduled for July 20.
- b) ACDEVCO staff had a meeting with local realtors about available properties in Atlantic City and first-time homebuyer programs.
- c) AtlantiCare hosted a meeting for their employees about homeownership in Atlantic City that was extremely well-attended by people very interested in the possibility of buying homes in the city.
- d) The Hispanic Association of Atlantic County reported that some Latino families are scared to leave their homes for fear of ICE raids in their neighborhoods and places of employment. The Association is providing the Latino community with "Know Your Rights" information and other resources.

