

ATLANTIC CITY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Tuesday, June 18, 2019

Stockton University – Atlantic City Campus

1) REMARKS FROM GOVERNOR'S SPECIAL COUNSEL JIM JOHNSON

- a) Introduced Bert Lopez, president of the Hispanic Association of Atlantic County, to the Executive Council.
- b) Introduced Stephanie Nussbaum, a graduate student at the Harvard Kennedy School, who is interning with the Atlantic City Initiatives Project Office. She is working on how to develop sensible ways to input data and its effectiveness.
- c) Still on track to break ground on a supermarket in the city this year.
- d) Need to remember the challenges that must be addressed and all the work that still needs to be done. When the Executive Council gets wins, have to remember to keep pushing ahead with the work.
- e) Pointed out June 12 article posted on NJ.com that reported how U.S. Census data shows Atlantic City as the municipality in New Jersey with greatest income inequality

2) SENATE HEARING ON CASINO REGULATIONS AND ECONOMIC ISSUES: IMPACT ON ATLANTIC CITY

- a) Jim Johnson explained that he testified before the Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism and Historic Preservation Committee earlier in the month about protecting the health of the casino industry. He said he addressed three main issues:
 - i. If there should be a limit to the number of casinos in the city;
 - ii. The carrying load of casinos on the city's infrastructure and municipal services; and
 - iii. Opportunities to change casino licensing to ensure casinos are making a positive impact on the community.
- b) Mayor Gilliam said it is good to be thinking about the carrying capacity each casino has on the city and possibly limiting the number of casinos in the city so the casinos can be as successful as possible.
- c) Jim Johnson said CRDA is funding a study that Stockton University is conducting. The study is looking at who is coming to the Atlantic City boardwalk and why and who is coming to the casinos in the city and why. The study will help inform the Executive Council's decisions.
- d) Jim Johnson said decisions can't only be made by government, but should include the casino industry and labor.
- e) Jim Johnson invited state Senator James Beach, who chairs the Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism and Historic Preservation Committee, and committee members to Atlantic City to see the city beyond the boardwalk and the casinos. The Atlantic City Initiatives Project Office will arrange a tour for the state senators.

3) YOUTH DEVELOPMENT: DEVELOPMENTAL ASSETS PROFILE TRAINING

- a) Comments were made that the condition of Atlantic City's youth is worse than other cities.

- b) On May 23rd, the Search Institute, a Minneapolis-based nonprofit organization focused on advancing the health and well-being of youth, families and communities, helped train 56 youth development leaders in the city about how to use the findings of the Developmental Assets Profile (DAP) survey of city youth to improve youth programs in the city. The Atlantic City school district and most youth organizations were present for the training.
- c) Michelle Carrera, CEO of the Atlantic City chapter of the Boys and Girls Club, said a consortium is now being developed to take data from the DAP survey and use it help children in the city and their families. Of the 56 youth development leaders who participated in the DAP training, approximately 20 expressed an interest in being a part of the consortium.
- d) Michelle Carrera said the consortium will meet on a monthly basis. It will draft a plan of action to address challenges as a collective rather than individual youth agencies.
- e) Jim Johnson said Lt. Governor Oliver is always thinking about how to build people's capacity. He said it must be recognized that the family system is key to youth success. Mentors and organizations can do everything to fill up a child's bucket, but if someone is kicking over this bucket at the child's home, these efforts are for naught.
- f) Elijah Langford, the community outreach manager for the Atlantic City Initiatives Project Office, reported that in the first week of July, 66 high school and college-aged students will begin summer youth employment and internships at City Hall.
- g) Later in July, an additional 30 plus college-aged young people will begin internships outside of City Hall with such institutions as Stockton University, Atlantic Cape Community College, AtlantiCare, South Jersey Industries, Volunteers of America and the Atlantic City Arts Foundation. The focus of these internship positions will be to expose students to professional work environments where their job duties will range based on their placement.
- h) The Arts Foundation internships are being funded by and done in collaboration with the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City.

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

- a) Executive Council members received information about the Governor's Conference on Housing and Economic Development in Atlantic City and how to register to attend.
- b) Jim Johnson said the conference is an opportunity to highlight to attendees the work that the City of Atlantic City, CRDA and stakeholders are doing to make the city more accessible to people who want to invest and develop in the city.
- c) A bus tour of projects in development in Atlantic City has traditionally been a part of the conference. Jim Johnson suggested the bus tour focus on those parcels that can be developed and that people on the tour learn about how the City of Atlantic City is more accessible to developers. He asked DCA staff to follow up with conference organizers about doing such a bus tour.
- d) Rosa Farias, deputy director of the Atlantic City Initiatives Project Office, reported that Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Atlantic City is interested in working with the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency to create a first-time homebuyer program for Hard Rock employees to incentive buying a home in Atlantic City. The idea is to create a successful program and then replicate it among other employers in the city.

- e) Jim Johnson said that as the Atlantic City Master Plan is being developed, planners are keeping in mind first time homeownership programs and families and children who are most challenged.
- f) Executive Council members talked about some of the challenges for first time homebuyer programs in the city, including limited housing stock and many residents who earn tip-based wages which makes it more difficult to show income.
- g) The need to develop a Community Development Corporation to work through these challenges was discussed. Also discussed was protecting against gentrification through homeownership.

5) CIVIC AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT: 48 BLOCKS

- a) The Atlantic City Arts Foundation gave a presentation about 48 Blocks AC, which is a citywide celebration of the artistic talents, creativity, community, culture and history of Atlantic City.
- b) 48 Blocks AC is scheduled for Saturday, June 22 and Sunday, June 23.

6) CIVIC INFRASTRUCTURE: LATINO TOWN HALL

- a) The Atlantic City Initiatives Project Office recognized that significant voices were missing from the town hall in January, namely voices from the city's Spanish-speaking community. For this reason, a decision was made to hold a town hall for Spanish speakers.
- b) The Latino Town Hall is scheduled to begin at 5 p.m. on June 18. It will follow the same format as the town hall in January except that it will feature real-time live interpretation.
- c) The Atlantic City Initiatives Project Office looks forward to the feedback it will receive from the town hall.

7) GOOD OF THE ORDER

- a) Mayor Gilliam said people in the city are excited about concerts at Gardner's Basin beginning again.
- b) Mayor Gilliam reported that later in the summer, the City of Atlantic City will be launching Facebook, Twitter and Instagram social media accounts.
- c) Chicken Bone Beach will begin a free jazz concert series on the boardwalk that will take place from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. every Thursday from June through August.