

Howard County Economic Opportunity and Prosperity Task Force

Economic Development Subcommittee Meeting

C. Vernon Gray Room – Howard Building – May 31, 2018

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 3:14 p.m. The following individuals were in attendance: Peter O’Neil, Melissa Metz, Bita Dayhoff, Phyllis Madachy, and Jeff Meyers (Council staff).

As there was no quorum, the minutes from April 26 were not considered.

Emmet Tydings - Vice Chair of Suburban Maryland Transportation Alliance, past chair of the Howard Tech Council, and CEO/President of AB&T Telecom LLC, discussed transportation issues with the subcommittee. Transportation plans must be approved by regional councils of governments such as the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and may contain only projects that have identified funding. Public transportation is complex and must be part of a comprehensive plan that includes pedestrian and bike routes, road networks, and transit. Howard County’s geographic position between Baltimore and Washington is viewed as a strength, meaning that development should be focused on building dense activity centers such as downtown Columbia, Gateway, and Fulton. Mr. Tydings will follow up with additional written information.

Francine R. Trout, Director, Howard County Office of Workforce Development, described the functions and activities of the Office. The Office provides individualized support to those seeking to enter or re-enter the job market or who wish to move to a career with better prospects. The Office seeks to match those individuals with job sectors that have high demand. Many of the clients are individuals with some post-high school education who have already worked for a number of years but have been laid-off or otherwise seek new employment. Other job seekers have great challenges: difficulty in finding child care, lack of transportation, and limited skill sets.

Linda Gordon-Gilmore, Business Services Manager, Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning, Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, talked about apprenticeships, layoff aversion, and re-skilling. She also discussed the differences between businesses being a “registered apprenticeship” organization and being a participant of the EARN Maryland program. There are a series of approval steps business need to commit to when receiving the designation as a registered apprenticeship organization.

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.