

Howard County Economic Opportunity and Prosperity Task Force

Minutes (Approved)

July 9, 2018

C. Vernon Gray Room  
1st Floor, George Howard Building  
3430 Court House Drive  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Members in attendance: Anne Brinker, Paul Casey, Ana Cisneros, Kim Flowers, Jason Jannati, Phyllis Madachy, Leonardo McClarty, Elizabeth Noble, and Jaykant Parekh. Additionally, Roger Barnes from subcommittees also attended.

Staff in attendance: Jim Meyd, County Auditor's Office, Jeff Meyers, County Council office, and Jessie Keller, Council Member Weinstein's office.

The audio recording of the meeting is available on the Task Force website<sup>1</sup>.

Chairperson Madachy called the meeting to order at 3:46 p.m.

The Task Force approved the minutes from its meeting on June 11, 2018<sup>2</sup>.

Mr. McClarty reviewed the plans for the public hearing<sup>3</sup>, scheduled for 5:30 p.m. after the Task Force meeting. He also commented on the list of presenters that had address the Task Force and the various subcommittees, which had previously been distributed to the Task Force and which is appended below these minutes. He also reviewed the emerging topics, themes, and issues that are likely to be in the final recommendations. Mr. Casey wished to add to that list integration of immigrants and senior housing as issues. Ms. Noble added that the lack of good linkage between nonprofits, the business community, and the government should be included as well. The County should be more proactive in harnessing and promoting entrepreneurial innovation. Ms. Madachy noted that discussion of transportation issues should include all modes, not just transit and para-transit because the needs of pedestrians and bicyclists should be addressed.

Ms. Madachy noted that subcommittees should share information that they have uncovered that reveal best practices used by other jurisdictions.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://cc.howardcountymd.gov/EOPTaskForce>

<sup>2</sup> <https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/Portals/0/EOP%20Minutes%20June%2011%202018%20approved.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> [https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/Portals/0/7\\_9\\_18%20EOPTF%20Public%20Meeting%20Agenda.pdf](https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/Portals/0/7_9_18%20EOPTF%20Public%20Meeting%20Agenda.pdf)

Ms. Noble reported that the Education and Workforce Development subcommittee had not met since the last Task Force meeting but the subcommittee continued to be concerned about apprenticeships, soft skills, and hardening the linkages between job-seekers and employers.

Ms. Flowers reported that the Housing and Community Development subcommittee had heard from Kelly Cimino and Peter Engle since the last Task Force meeting. The subcommittee had more deeply explored the concerns over the lack of affordable and workforce housing in the County. The County’s Department of Housing and Community Development and the Howard County Housing Commission, which is not a County governmental unit, both lack sufficient funding to address the needs, which continue to grow. The recent changes to APFO are likely to further constrain housing affordability. She briefed the Task Force on the approaches taken by some other jurisdictions, particularly Montgomery and Arlington counties, which devote considerable local money to affordable housing matters. She also noted that Howard County does not have any measurable targets or goals related to workforce, moderate, or low-income housing.

Neither co-chair of the Economic Development subcommittee was present. Mr. McClarty noted that the subcommittee had met the previous week. The subcommittee is concerned about County purchasing practices, which should be modified to give preferences to businesses that have a physical presence in the County. The Equal Business Opportunity Commission had also discussed this issue. Mr. Parekh gave as an example the concerns raised by owners of local small liquor stores about the impact if a supermarket would be allowed to sell beer and wine. The local stores predict business failures, unemployment, and commercial vacancies.

The Task Force discussed what its final report might look like. Mr. McClarty recommended that the members review the final reports from other commissions available on the County website. He particularly commended the Equal Business Opportunity and Human Trafficking reports. See [https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/About-Us/Commissions\\_Task-Forces\\_Special-Reports](https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/About-Us/Commissions_Task-Forces_Special-Reports). Mr. McClarty suggested that the Task Force might wish to form a small committee to write the report, which is the approach used by the Spending Affordability Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

The Task Force reconvened at 5:30 p.m. for the public hearing, but as no one from the public appeared, the Task Force broke up around 6:05 p.m.

Guest speakers as of July 9, 2018:

1	October 30 2017	Full TF	Jon Weinstein, Howard County Council
2	December 11, 2017	Full TF	Michael B. Kelly, Executive Director, Baltimore Metropolitan Council
3			Francine R. Trout, Administrator, Howard County Office of Workforce Development
4		Full TF	

5	January 22, 2018		Renee Kamen, AICP, Manager, Office of School Planning, Howard County Public School System Cole Schnorf, COO – Director of Development, Manekin, and Co-Chair of the County APFO Task Force
6	February 28, 2018	Economic Development Subcommittee	Larry Twele of the Howard County EDA
7			Dr. Richard Clinch, Executive Director of the University of Baltimore's Jacob France Institute
8	March 12, 2018	Full TF	Kelly Kesler, Director, Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition (LHIC), Howard County Health Department, Bureau of Health Promotion
9	March 12, 2018	Housing / Community Development Subcommittee	Kelly Cimino, Director of the county's Department of Housing and Community Development
10			Peter Engel, Executive Director of the Howard County Housing Commission
11	March 27, 2018	Housing / Community Development Subcommittee	Cindy Parr, Executive Director of the ARC of Howard County
12	March 28, 2018	Economic Development Subcommittee	Clive Graham, Administrator, Office of Transportation, Howard County Government
13	March 27, 2018	Workforce Development and Education	Linda Gilmore, Manager, Business Services, Office of Workforce Development, Department of Labor, Licensing, & Regulation
14	April 9, 2018	Housing / Community Development Subcommittee	Melissa Rosenberg, Executive Director of the Howard County Autism Society
15			Mark Dunham, a consultant to the Society
16			Coleen West, Executive Director of the Howard County Arts Council
17	April 23, 2018	Housing / Community Development Subcommittee	Don Pontious, Housing Policy Coordinator, Baltimore Metropolitan Council
18			Tim May, volunteer with the Columbia Housing Center
19	April 9, 2018	Full TF	Jeffrey P. Bronow, Chief, Division of Research, Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning
20	May 7, 2018	Housing / Community Development Subcommittee	Jacqueline R. Scott, JD, ML, Director, Department of Community Resources and Services
21	May 15, 2018	Full TF	Steve Sachs, the Chair of the Howard County Spending Affordability Committee
22	May 21, 2018	Housing / Community Development Subcommittee	Jason Jannati, Chief Development Officer, Power52
23	May 29, 2018	Workforce Development and Education	Laurie Reuben, Cheshire Consulting
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25	May 31, 2018	Economic Development Subcommittee	Emmet Tydings - Vice Chair of Suburban Maryland Transportation Alliance, Francine R. Trout, Director, Howard County Office of Workforce Development Linda Gordon-Gilmore, Business Services Manager, Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning, Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation
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27	June 4, 2018	Housing / Community Development Subcommittee	John Byrd, Director, Department of Recreation and Parks
28	June 4, 2018	Housing / Community Development Subcommittee	Hector Garcia, FIRN
29	June 11, 2018	Full TF	Lisa Terry, Administrator, Office of Veterans and Military Families, Howard Co Department of Community Resources and Services Linda Gordon-Gilmore, Business Services Manager, Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning, Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation
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31	June 26, 2018	Housing / Community Development Subcommittee	Kelly Cimino, Director of the county's Department of Housing and Community Development Peter Engel, Executive Director of the Howard County Housing Commission
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