

City of Albany COVID Recovery Task Force

Meeting #2

May 18, 2021 | 12pm

Albany Capital Center/Zoom

Attendees

* () designee attended

COVID Recovery Task Force Members			
Name	Present	Name	Present
Kaweeda Adams		Micky Jimenez	X
Faye Andrews	X	Andrew Joyce * (Michael Morris)	X
Dorcey Applys	X	Anna Kuwabara	X
Kate Baker	X	Eileen Larrabee	X
Alfredo Balarin		Angelo Maddox	X
Carm Basile		Daniel McCoy * (Daniel Lynch)	X
Bob Belber	X	Dennis McKenna	X
Neenah Bland	X	Tracy Metzger	X
Tricia Brown	X	Matthew Peter	X
Jeff Buell	X	Dominick Purnomo	X
Michael Castellana		Roger Ramsammy * (Louis Copelin)	X
Chiquita D'Arbeau	X	Sarah Reginelli	X
Mark Eagan * (Jason Benitez)	X	Jahmel Robinson	
Corey Ellis	X	Havidán Rodríguez	
Sonia Frederick	X	Darius Shahinfar	X
Anthony Gaddy	X	Kathy Sheehan	X
Peter Gannon	X	Noelene Smith	
Tammis Groft	X	Georgette Steffens	X
Jahkeen Hoke	X	Raphael Tucker	X
Kevin Hicks		Michael Whalen	X

Other Attendees:

Ashley Mohl, Nora Culhane Friedel, Renee McFarlin, John Regan, Michael Bohne

Introductions

Following introductions, the Co-Chairs and the Mayor began the meeting by walking the Task Force Members through a prepared PowerPoint presentation. The Co-Chairs provided an overview of the meeting agenda and reminded Members of the four main objectives of this Task Force.

The Co-chairs and Ashley Mohl (Director of Economic Development at Capitalize Albany Corporation, acting as Initiative Coordinator) provided a summary of pertinent Treasury guidance as it relates to the American Rescue Plan Act and the available funding. A key takeaway from this information is that these funds will have significant monitoring and audits throughout.

The Task Force members were then presented with proposed working groups to align with Treasury Guidance and a schedule of meeting times for the remaining meetings of the full Task Force, as well as the smaller working groups meetings. Task Force members were encouraged to attend more than just their assigned working group, and the Co-Chairs stressed that all are welcome in all working groups. It was clarified that the Task Force members are being asked to serve as experts in specific industry sectors and are necessary on the assigned working groups, but their input will be incredibly valuable to across all working groups. It was further recommended that elected officials serve at-large rather than on a specific working group in order to ensure that working group findings are tied together where necessary. A discussion ensued between Task Force members reiterating that it is likely there will be overlap between working group topics and resources. The conversation continued with Task Force members reinforcing the idea that these working groups are not meant to create further silos, but to utilize their expertise in their particular fields to inform further decision making with respect to this funding. A request was made to allow for working groups to review notes from the other working groups. A reoccurring message in this discussion was the potential for these funds to inspire a true Albany renaissance, to help Albany become what we already know it to be. A number of Task Force members indicated that they would be attending multiple working groups.

The Initiative Coordinator then walked the group through the anticipated outcomes of the Task Force, reminded the group of the compressed schedule, and discussed future meeting dates and times. The Co-Chairs then discussed how public engagement will be incorporated into this process through surveys as part of the needs assessment and the recommendation phases of the Task Force and emphasized that the website will be where to find all meeting resources & materials. The Initiative Coordinator provided an overview of the Industry Survey Summary document that will help to inform the needs assessment conducted by the Task Force and advised Task Force members of the due date of May 21, 2021. The Co-Chairs adjourned the meeting at approximately 1:05 p.m.

Administrative Matters

- Meeting Materials/Resources will continue to be posted publicly to the City's webpage as they become available
- A reminder about Working Group meetings including Zoom log-in information for each session will be distributed to Task Force members; this will include a request for RSVPs

Next Steps

Task Force Members were asked to do the following prior to the next meeting:

- Prepare/RSVP for the Working Group sessions next week
- Return Industry Survey Summary to Nora Culhane Friedel by Friday, May 21, 2021
- Submit photo/bio for webpage to Nora Culhane Friedel if you have not already