

## **City of Albany COVID Recovery Task Force**

### **Kickoff Meeting**

Friday, April 23, 2021 @ 1:00 PM

Times Union Center Media Room/Zoom

### 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 discussed why they agreed to lead this effort and then identified the four main objectives of this Task Force.

### Four Main Objectives

- Obtain a shared understanding of how the American Rescue Plan can help the City of Albany
- Identify the needs of the City of Albany residents, businesses, and non-profit organizations that cannot be covered by other funding sources
- Equitably and strategically maximize resources available to our residents, businesses, and community organizations to restart Albany and build back better
- Engage every sector of the City of Albany to ensure we get resources where they are needed to restart Albany, re-open businesses, prevent evictions, and strengthen our not-for-profit organizations

The Co-Chairs and Mayor then provided an overview of the various COVID recovery funding sources available, the federal funding that entities in the City of Albany have received to date, the American Rescue Plan funding, the current state of Albany finances, why the Task Force Members were selected, sectors represented by the Task Force, the proposed timeline of the Task Force, and assignments for Task Force members.

An open discussion of Task Force Members followed the formal presentation. Several key points were identified during the discussion. This is an opportunity to educate City of Albany residents and stakeholders about this City-driven appropriation distribution process. As directed by the Mayor, this group is to provide recommendations to the City so the City can make educated, equitable decisions around the allocation of these funds – which will be a very transparent, public process. There is a consensus that the Task Force needs to drill down into specific subtopics and identify/quantify real needs within each sector. Are any sectors not currently represented by the Task Force? Peter Gannon (United Way Greater Capital Region) will share ALICE report.

### Administrative Matters

- Each meeting PowerPoint slide deck and minutes will be distributed to the Task Force.
- Biographies and contact information for members will be shared. This information is currently being collected.
- A landing page on the City of Albany website is currently under development to maintain resources and working documents relevant to the Task Force.

- A Doodle Poll/survey will be distributed to identify future meeting dates based on the proposed timeline shared at this meeting and Task Force member availability.

### Next Steps

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

- 1) Think about the constituencies in the City of Albany. Who has been historically disadvantaged and left behind because of systemic barriers created outside of those constituencies' control? How can this funding help remove those barriers?
- 2) Think about your organization's current short- and long-term plans. How can the City of Albany help support those missions?

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:01 p.m.