

City of Albany COVID Recovery Task Force

Meeting #3

June 3, 2021 | 12pm

Albany Capital Center/Zoom

Attendees:

* () designee attended

COVID Recovery Task Force Members			
Name	Present	Name	Present
Kaweeda Adams	X	Micky Jimenez	
Faye Andrews	X	Andrew Joyce * (Michael Morris)	X
Dorcey Applyrs	X	Anna Kuwabara	X
Kate Baker	X	Eileen Larrabee	X
Alfredo Balarin	X	Angelo Maddox	X
Carm Basile * (Jonathan Scherzer)	X	Daniel McCoy * (Daniel Lynch)	X
Bob Belber	X	Dennis McKenna * (John Regan)	X
Neenah Bland		Tracy Metzger	X
Tricia Brown		Matthew Peter	X
Jeff Buell		Dominick Purnomo	X
Michael Castellana	X	Roger Ramsammy	
Chiquita D'Arbeau	X	Sarah Reginelli	X
Mark Eagan * (Jason Benitez)	X	Jahmel Robinson	
Corey Ellis		Havidán Rodríguez	
Sonia Frederick	X	Darius Shahinfar	X
Anthony Gaddy	X	Kathy Sheehan	X
Peter Gannon	X	Noelene Smith	X
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, Michael Bohne, Bradford Hickox, Richard Conti, Patrick Alderson, David Galin

Meeting Content:

The Co-Chairs and the Mayor began the meeting by welcoming the Task Force members and reviewing the goal of these meetings, as well as briefly discussing the importance of the prioritization of the different needs represented in the assessment.

Ashley Mohl (Director of Economic Development at Capitalize Albany Corporation, acting as Initiative Coordinator) then walked the Task Force through the prepared presentation, beginning with a review of the Working Group sessions held on May 24th and May 25th. The Initiative Coordinator introduced the committed Working Group captains and made a request for volunteers to take on the role in the two groups remaining without established captains. Two Task Force members offered to co-captain the Housing/Transportation/Community group, while a third member offered to captain the

Education/Workforce/Human Services group. The Initiative Coordinator and Working Group captains then reported out from their respective Working Group sessions, and all notes for each session were provided as handouts to Task Force members in attendance. The Working Group notes will also be distributed by email to all Task Force members subsequent to the meeting. The Initiative Coordinator highlighted the recurrent themes through the sessions and supported the report out with prepared slides identifying the major discussion points of each session.

Throughout and following the Working Groups' report out, there were discussion points raised among Task Force members. The idea of a city-backed loan fund as a tool to reduce risk to private lenders and thereby increase lending activity was presented and considered; suggestions were made to utilize existing community development finance institutions or loan funds and other sources. The conversation continued further around developing inclusive strategies for attracting and retaining talent in the City of Albany. This led to additional discussion regarding creative marketing strategies to highlight the "rebirth" of Albany – the focus being on one message and one platform. The newly released [CapNY brand and website](#) for the Capital District was identified as an existing successful campaign that can achieve this goal.

Co-Chair Mike Whalen then reviewed the Task Force Media Policy with Task Force members. The schedule was reviewed for the upcoming meetings, and it was identified that a call for public input (survey) on the Needs Assessment conducted by this Task Force is currently under development and will be distributed to the Task Force members within the next week. Members were also advised that a link to the survey will be added to the COVID Recovery Task Force website, and all Task Force members will be sent an email notification with boilerplate language regarding dissemination. Survey equity was raised as a concern, and the Mayor responded, assuring that the survey will be open to the public and that additional public engagement will be collected and considered in the course of official City and Common Council business pertaining to the budgeting and ultimate allocation ARP funds. Committee Co-Chairs and members also noted that the Task Force was selected to represent their industry's constituents and have been asked to provide insight into their particular sector, summarize needs when possible, and reach out to their contact lists to engage them in the conversation.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:30 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:

- Return Industry Survey Summary, Needs Assessment, and Best Practice Worksheets to Nora Culhane Friedel ASAP
- Upon public input survey release the Task Force members are asked to please distribute the survey widely throughout your networks (If paper copies are needed or if additional translations are needed, please request through nculhane@capitalizealbany.com)