

**City of Albany COVID Recovery Task Force**

**Meeting #5**

July 22, 2021 | 2pm

Albany Capital Center/Zoom

Attendees:

\* ( ) designee attended

COVID Recovery Task Force Members			
Name	Present	Name	Present
Kaweeda Adams * (Ron Lesko)	X	Micky Jimenez	
Faye Andrews	X	Andrew Joyce * (Necole Chambers)	X
Dorcey Applyrs * (Peatros Haile)	X	Anna Kuwabara	X
Kate Baker	X	Eileen Larrabee	X
Alfredo Balarin	X	Angelo Maddox	X
Carm Basile * (Allison Schreffler)	X	Daniel McCoy * (Daniel Lynch)	X
Bob Belber	X	Dennis McKenna * (John Regan)	X
Neenah Bland	X	Tracy Metzger	X
Tricia Brown		Matthew Peter	X
Jeff Buell	X	Dominick Purnomo	X
Michael Castellana		Roger Ramsammy	
Chiquita D'Arbeau	X	Sarah Reginelli	X
Mark Eagan		Jahmel Robinson	
Corey Ellis		Havidán Rodríguez *(Jordan Carleo-Evangelist)	X
Sonia Frederick	X	Darius Shahinfar	X
Anthony Gaddy	X	Kathy Sheehan	X
Peter Gannon		Noelene Smith	X
Tammis Groft		Georgette Steffens	X
Jahkeen Hoke	X	Raphael Tucker	X
Michael Whalen	X	Giovanni Otero	X
Kevin Hicks			

Other Attendees:

Ashley Mohl, Nora Culhane Friedel, Renee McFarlin, Michael Bohne, David Galin, Nick Thony

Meeting Content:

The Co-Chairs and the Mayor began the meeting at 2:05 p.m. 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 Public Survey #2 results and outcomes. Nearly 750 respondents to the second public survey, close to 300 more than the initial survey. With both surveys combined, the Task Force received more than 1,000 survey respondents. Racial and ethnic diversity stayed at levels consistent with the first survey and nearly 70% Albany residents participated. Respondents were asked to pick their top 10 programs/project areas in terms of urgency.

The final tally of the Top 10 most urgent program areas were:

- 1) Provide mental health support and address social-emotional impacts of the pandemic
- 2) Promote access to healthcare for traditionally underserved individuals
- 3) Increase access to and affordability of quality, holistic childcare options
- 4) Support universal access to healthy food and nutrition education
- 5) Improve public safety
- 6) Target public infrastructure improvements in distressed census tracts and disinvested neighborhoods
- 7) Invest in implementation of neighborhood revitalization strategies
- 8) Support quality, affordable and diverse housing opportunities
- 9) Expand access to affordable, high-speed broadband access throughout the City of Albany
- 10) Retain, develop and attract a qualified and diverse workforce and emerging/expanding industries and job opportunities

The Co-Chairs then led the Task Force members through the proposed and constituent-informed Guiding Principles and Implementation Principles. The Mayor reviewed the proposed Assessment Framework and Task Force members were encouraged to express questions or concerns. Task Force members agreed that now and moving forward, flexibility, compliance, capacity, and engagement during the sub-recipient funding process is paramount. The Task Force members discussed the guidance provided by the Treasury and called for presenting a unified front as much as possible as the report is released.

The Task Force leadership reviewed the next steps, beginning with the Mayor reviewing the Report with the Budget Office and other city departments to determine how best to work these recommendations into the proposed 2022 Budget – and potentially propose amendments to the 2021 budget. The report will also be provided to the City of Albany Common Council to assist in their review of the proposed budget package. The Report will be made public, so that external agencies and service providers can begin considering how their operations can address these recommendations and start developing the collaborative projects and programs they intend to apply for subrecipient funding to create or enhance. It was stated that the City plans to begin building administrative and project management capacity, developing internal programs, and designing guidelines and competitive solicitations for subrecipient awards beginning in Quarter 1 of 2022, following budget approval.

The Co-Chairs shared that the Task Force leadership is pursuing a marketing campaign to accompany the report release.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:15 p.m.

#### Administrative Matters:

- Meeting Materials/Resources will continue to be posted publicly to the City's webpage as they become available

Next Steps:

- Draft report completed by July 31, 2021
- Report released August 2021