



# CITY OF DETROIT WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

## APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, June 9, 2016, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Location: Outdoor Adventure Center, Riverview Loft  
1801 Atwater St., Detroit, MI 48207

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the City Of Detroit - Workforce Development Board was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Workforce Development Board Co-Chair Cynthia Pasky.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chair Pasky asked for a motion to approve the Draft Agenda as presented. A motion was made and supported to adopt the draft agenda as presented. Motion Carried Unanimously.

### **APPROVAL OF DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING March 28, 2016**

Chair Pasky asked for a motion to approve the draft minutes of the March 28, 2016 meeting of the City of Detroit - Workforce Development Board. A motion was made and supported to adopt the Draft Minutes of the Meeting. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Co-Chair Pasky welcomed all to the meeting and thanked Mayor Duggan and The Honorable Eric Seleznow, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Employment and Training Administration for taking the time from their busy schedules to join the meeting today.

### **REPORTS**

#### **Co-Chairs Report – Cynthia Pasky and Dave Meador** – Co-Chairs, City of Detroit - Workforce Development Board

Chair Dave Meador thanked the DNR Outdoor Adventure Center for allowing the meeting to be held at this location and noted to members that this location has been open about 9 months and is a great facility. Chair Meador recommended that if members have time after the meeting, they could consider taking a tour of the facility.

#### **Youth Update:**

- **GDYT** – Mr. Meador offered an update on Grow Detroit's Young Talent (GDYT), which is headed by Mr. Ed Duggan. Co-Chair Meador shared that the goal for this program is to employ 8000 youth for the summer. This number is a clear example of great partnership of government and business.
- **Summer Opportunity Grant** – Thanks to Mr. Seleznow and his team for their assistance and support with Detroit acquiring the Department of Labor Summer Opportunity Grant - \$2M. This grant will enhance GDYT this summer and create year-round work experience for 1000 disconnected youth. It will also create a reengagement center for youth.
- **United Way Linked Learning Initiative** – A partnership between JPMorgan Chase, the Skillman foundation, the Ford Foundation and the Ford Motor Company Fund. This project will connect 10,000 Detroit high school students to career education and work experience over the next three years. This is a career-ready/college-ready program.
- **MWDB Youth Sub-Committee** – This Committee is ensuring that each program is part of a larger workforce strategy still headed toward *One Detroit*. Directors General Stone and Tonya Allen lead the charge for this sub-committee. One area that the committee wants to take on is in the area of vocational training or CTE Programs. Co-Chair Meador stated that one of the schools he is focused on is Randolph. He is looking at schools that teach youth hands on skills for youth that might not go to college.

### **Welcome – The Honorable Mike Duggan, Mayor, City of Detroit**

Mayor Duggan thanked all for attending the meeting today and shared his appreciation in what all are doing to train Detroiters to be ready when the jobs are ready. Mayor Duggan feels very strongly that if Detroit just get a chance, we will win our share of grants and awards. Mayor Duggan spoke briefly about the Honorable Eric Seleznow, sharing that he knows how to identify individuals and get them motivated to figure out how to make things happen. Mayor Duggan shared that Mr. Seleznow was a crucial part of getting the Returning Citizens program in Maryland up and running.

Co-Chair Pasky and Co-Chair Meador have had an opportunity to meet with Mr. Seleznow and hear his vision of the future of workforce development which lead to Detroit launching its own Returning Citizen program

**The Honorable Eric Seleznow** – Assistant Secretary Seleznow stated that other cities are now looking at Detroit as a model for workforce. Mr. Seleznow shared that Detroit earns the grants they are receiving, and noted that this is a very competitive process. Mr. Seleznow thanks the Board for having him and for all the work that has been done as far as workforce development. Mr. Seleznow explained that a lot of people are needed at the table to make this work. The system must be an employer-driven/demand-driven system, engaging multiple employers from the same sectors.

The common theme is workforce development. He noted that people have some of the same challenges, unable to show up to work on time, failing drug test, etc. There must be a combination of hard and soft skills training and data is important. Assistant Secretary Seleznow shared that these problems would not be solved in the next 6 months but over time, could be done. Mr. Seleznow stated that many boards focus on the supply side and not the business side. This Board's job is to make sure that all Detroiters are prepared and trained to be employed. Boards must have a strategy for connecting workers to employers in the city.

Discussion continued pertaining to Detroit's returning citizens program and the direction this Board is headed.

### **Jeff Donofrio – Executive Director of the City of Detroit - Workforce Development Board**

Mr. Donofrio shared employment statistics for Detroiters and that Detroit lags behind comparable cities in Michigan and the U.S. Mr. Donofrio shared that one reason for this lag that far too many residents have less than a high school education a too few have advanced training. Mr. Donofrio detailed significant challenges as well as job openings for skilled Detroiters now and in the future, one opportunity being Flex-N-Gate's plans for a Detroit Plant that could create up to 750 new jobs in the city.

Brief discussion ensued about individuals having an issue getting verification of high school diplomas from DPS. He noted that we must find a way to remove these barriers, which currently can take 2-3 months.

**The Honorable Janee Ayers, Detroit City Council – Returning Citizens Task Force** – Councilperson Ayers explained that in the fall, she was honored and privileged to chair the Returning Citizens Task Force for Detroit. Councilperson Ayers explained that she knows this area, detailing her past experiences with returning citizens from a personal perspective. This is not just a city problem, but a problem across the country. Councilperson Ayers talked about some of the obstacles for this population. You can get a person a suit and you can get them training, but they may still have a certain mindset. Councilperson Ayers shared the Task Force is meant to meet a person to assist with a holistic approach to meet all their needs. Councilperson Ayers offered a detailed overview of this task force process, inviting all members present today to join in and assist in this battle. Councilperson Ayers stated that if you are here and can provide access, let's start putting them in use. The Task Force has served well over 100 people during the last two task force events. Councilperson Ayers appreciates everything this Board is doing.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Youth – Directors Tonya Allen and General Michael Stone** – Director General Stone explained this committee has revised a strategy and feel they have what they need at this point to begin. (1) \$2M USDOL Grant – to assist 350 disconnected youth currently not engaged in employment nor in school (2) United Way Linked Learning Initiative - A successful approach to education based on the idea that students work harder and dream bigger if their education is relevant to them. The Linked Learning approach integrates rigorous academics that meet college-ready standards with sequenced, high-quality career-technical education, work-based learning, and supports to help students stay on track. For Linked Learning students, education is organized around industry-sector themes. The industry theme is woven into lessons taught by teachers who collaborate across subject areas with input from working professionals, and reinforced by work-based learning with real employers. This makes learning more like the real world of work, and helps students answer the question, (3) MWDB Youth Sub-Committee - The goal of this committee is to make sure all programs are part of a larger workforce strategy.

**Corporate Planning and Procurement – Roy Wilson** – Director Wilson shared that the areas this committee are looking at (1) auto and manufacturing (2) healthcare (3) Retail, hospitality (4) construction (IT). The committee plans to meet quarterly and will have someone from the Mayor's office speak on procurement. Director Wilson shared that this committee will report numbers during the next meeting. Members are going back to the Big Three, looking to have real discussion about DMC, Henry Ford and St. John as training sites.

**Construction - Steve Marquardt** – Proud to report that the first meeting of the subcommittee brought together labor unions, developers, government agencies and contractors for a good discussion on construction and skilled trades needs. Items this committee is working on are as follows:

1. Quantify demand – Forecast demand
2. Broader barriers
3. How do we keep score, what are the metrics?
4. How do we define construction?
5. Committed to putting Detroiters to work

**Automotive and Manufacturing – Joe Hinrichs** – Director Hinrichs spoke briefly about the Flex-N-Gate positions, stating all manufacturing positions have similar requirements, basically they need is for a GED or high school diploma. Director Hinrichs shared the committee believes there is an abundance of talent in Detroit. Must look at new programs to decide what can be made here. This committee also talked about each grabbing a fair amount of GDYT youth.

**Healthcare – Conrad Mallett** – Director Mallet shared this committee has met 3 times. This committee has gone through and reviewed the Returning Citizens Policy, making sure not to violate any of the rules and regulations we are governed by. They are going through and looking at assessments needed to qualify for jobs, mainly looking at clinical, clerical and dietary. Must make sure that assessments are being done and that they garner support from the other healthcare facilities. Director Mallett shared that a lot of facilities outsource some areas to vendors and it is up to this group to make sure the vendors used be a part of this process as well. Director Mallett spoke briefly about the reporting process. This group hopes to be able to report on numbers during the next meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS**

No old business to come before the Board

**NEW BUSINESS**

No new business to come before the Board

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment was presented before the Board.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the City of Detroit – Workforce Development Board, Chair Pasky requested adjournment of the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Respectively Submitted,

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Jeffrey Donofrio