



Joint Newark & Essex County Business and Economic Development Committee

Essex County College- Training Inc.

Thursday, January 4, 2018 at 9:00 am

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Alfred Bundy, Kelli Bell-Taylor, Qadr Camillo, Evanthia Corrado, Ida Chimbay, Mitra Choudhury, Joseph Epps, Barbara George-Johnson, Jonathan Kobza, Lynn Sternstein, Janine, Schaeffer, Joseph Tetteh, Cheryl Tsdale, Willie Tolbert and Shanequa Wilson.

Meeting Called to Order: Chairperson Mitch Cahn

Mitch called the meeting to order. A roundtable roll call was conducted to introduce all meeting attendees. November 2, 2017 minutes was approved by Alfred Bundy and seconded by Joseph Epps.

Initiatives/Goals for 2018- Chairperson, Mitch Cahn

Mitch advised that this meeting will focus on revisiting and planning new goals for 2018.

- ***Career Connections-*** Learn what the new plans and strategic are under the new Governor. Continue promoting and increasing usage.
- ***New Jersey Business & Industry Association-*** Continue pushing the idea of a *workforce readiness credential* along with the YIC Committee.
- ***Employer Resource Directory Website-*** Finalize the website to launch/promote. Bhavna created a list of website/contact information of stakeholders to link to the website.
- ***Incentive Programs-*** Advocate towards incentives programs such as Renewal Zone Status, Urban Enterprise Zone and HUBZone. There may be a possibility that the Urban Enterprise Zone may renew. Newark was readmitted to the HUBZone.
 - ***Renewal Communities and Empowerment Zones Status-*** are distressed urban and rural communities where qualifying businesses are eligible for tax incentives.
 - ***Urban Enterprise Zone-*** exists to foster an economic climate that revitalizes designated urban communities and stimulates their growth by encouraging

businesses to develop and create private sector jobs through public and private investment.

- **HUBZone-** program helps small businesses in urban and rural communities gain preferential access to federal procurement opportunities.

Mr. Kobza mentioned that the committee should focus on manufacturing, warehouse distribution and construction training which these industries are heavily seeking qualified individuals and are willing to train.

Ms. George-Johnson advised that Amazon's partnership should be closely reviewed to see if it will benefit the City of Newark and its residents. Policy concerns should be reviewed in its entirety. She also mentioned that because of our new Governor more than likely marijuana will be legalized, therefore, issues like expungement, restitution, decriminalization and dispensary opportunities should be discussed so everyone has an equal opportunity.

- **Talent Networks-** Understand and implement Talent Networks. Advise the Talent Networks the needs of employers and employees.
- **Changes in Healthcare/Minimum Wage Increase/Automation-** Analyze how it will benefit and affect employers, employees and the changes that it will bring forth.

Mitch advised initiatives and goals for 2018 will continue in the next meeting as there are more topics to address. He also requested to change the 7/19/18 meeting to 7/26/18. Mitch adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled on May 24, 2018.