

**Commission on Economic Competitiveness**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Friday, October 14, 2016**

**10:00 AM IN ROOM 2D OF THE LOB**

**I. CONVENE MEETING:**

**The meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM by Chairman Rep. Tong.**

**The following commission members were present:**

Rep. William Tong, Joseph McGee, Commissioner Kevin Sullivan, Commissioner Catherine Smith, Seth Ruzi, Rep. Fred Camillo, Rep. Chris Davis, Rep. Jeffrey Berger, Lori Pelletier, Steven Glazer, Rep. Chris Perone, Joseph Brennan, Ellen Shemitz, Glendowlyn Thames for Matthew McCooe

**Absent were:**

Sen. John Fonfara (in district commitments), Jeffrey Hyde (family commitment), Sen. Scott Frantz (in district commitments), Rep. Cristin McCarthy Vahey (out of state), Sen. Joan Hartley (in district commitments), Heather Somers, Rodney Williams, Henry Teskey

**II. REMARKS BY THE CHAIRS:**

The co-chairs opened the meeting by acknowledging the mayors and first selectman that were in the audience for today's panel meeting.

The co-chairs then offered the context for the meeting by explaining that the commission recently received a diagnostic from McKinsey and Corporation which provided a 30 year analysis of the state's economy including strengths, weaknesses, trends, etc. They explained that the McKinsey report pointed out that one of the key areas that is vital to the state's economic competitiveness is the economic well-being of CT's cities. The co-chairs further explained that the study showed that the state's cities need to be at the center of the state's economic plan as a whole and that today's panel would offer 'best practices' that CT can use as a model when developing a plan to improve the economic competitiveness of their cities.

**III. PANEL ON REVITALIZING CONNECTICUT CITIES MODERATED BY ANNA STEIGER, VICE PRESIDENT, BOSTON FED:**

**1. TERESA LYNCH-MASS ECONOMICS**

Ms. Lynch addressed the commission on issues related to growing urban economies through strategies for innovation, entrepreneurship, and cluster development (a copy of this presentation

is located on the commission's website). Members discussed several issues with Ms. Lynch, including:

- The economic performance of CT cities
- Understanding innovation economy and strategic interventions
- Strategies for urban entrepreneurship
- Beyond traded cluster strategies
- Urban vs regional strategies

## **2. YOLANDA KODRZYCKI- FORMER DIRECTOR OF BOSTON FED'S NEW ENGLAND PUBLIC POLICY CENTER**

Ms. Kodrzycki addressed the commission on issues related to what research shows about resurgent cities and lessons that can be learned by Connecticut policy makers on this issue (a copy of this presentation is located on the commission's website). Members discussed several issues with Ms. Kodrzycki, including:

- Common challenges that small and mid-sized industrial cities have recently faced
- Lessons learned from the Boston Fed's study of Springfield, MA and its peer cities where the challenges are similar to other old manufacturing cities across the nation
- The major themes and lessons from studying resurgent cities including; industry modernization, leadership and collaboration, long-term visioning and re-evaluation, infrastructure and downtown revitalization, the role of higher education institutions, and helping low-income families and neighborhoods

## **3. TYNESIA BOYEA-ROBINSON- CHIEF IMPACT OFFICER, LIVING CITIES**

Ms. Boyea-Robinson addressed the commission on issues related to social equity as a strategy for promoting urban economic development, reflecting on case studies from the Living Cities national portfolio (a copy of this presentation is located on the commission's website). Members discussed several issues with Ms. Boyea-Robinson, including:

- The dramatic changes of America's demographics
- Widening racial gaps in America since the 1960's
- Strategies for getting dramatically better results for low-income people faster
- The idea that inequities in America are not natural, nor did they happen by accident
- The need to scale equitable opportunities and ensure social and economic inclusion in order to achieve dramatically better results for people of color
- The idea that transforming targeted neighborhoods is necessary but not sufficient if the goal is to transform the economic well-being of the people who live there
- Promoting economic development in immigrant communities to improve the business climate

- Lessons learned from Albuquerque, New Orleans, and Louisville regarding the new economic realities and innovative steps these cities have taken to address them

#### **4. PRABAL CHAKRABARTI- SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF BOSTON**

Mr. Chakrabarti addressed the commission on issues related to the Working Cities Challenge and the evidence for revitalizing cities through cross-sector collaboration. His presentation also focused on the fact that the competitive challenge has adapted and expanded to Connecticut cities (a copy of this presentation is located on the commission's website). Members discussed several issues with Mr. Chakrabarti, including:

- The Working Cities Challenge (WCC) goals and how it fosters collaboration
- The key features of the WCC
- Progress and highlights of the WCC
- Next steps and how cities can get involved with this initiative

#### **IV. ANNOUNCEMENT OF TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

The co-chairs asked that commission members please hold **Friday, November 18, 2016 for the next commission meeting which will serve as a planning session for the group's future work.**

#### **V. ADJOURNMENT:**

**The meeting was adjourned at 1:31 PM by Chairman Rep. Tong.**

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**Tom Spinella**

**Administrator**