

Business Development and Workforce Taskforce Orientation Meeting

Meeting Date: April 15, 2024

Meeting Time: 12:44 PM – 2:06 PM

Location: Bobby Snipes Water Resource Center – Presentation Room

YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zyw699PTJbU>

Present Taskforce Members:

Commissioner Carol Myers
Wesley Mellina
Ilka McConnell
Michele Pearson Tucker
David Bradley
Broderick Flanagan
Sally Kimel-Sheppard
Matthew Epperson

Facilitator:

Kara Fresk

Guest & Staff:

Alejandra Calva
Myung Cogan
Kenshundria Bailey-Allen
Niki Jones

Absent Taskforce Members:

Tiffany Taylor
Shane Blackwell
Dodd Ferrelle
Al McCall

Meeting Notes:

- I. Commissioner Carol Myers welcomed the committee and covered the Business Development and Workforce Support Task Force Charge.
- II. Presentations of Existing Efforts & Resources in Athens Clarke County
 - Athens Areas Chamber of Commerce Workforce Development Strategic Plan – David Bradley:
 - Raising the Average Household Income
 - Attracting Businesses that contribute to Economic Growth
 - Workforce and Employment Trends – Ilka McConnell
 - Workforce/Employment Overview
 - Bio-Tech Industries & Health Care Wage Data
 - Small Business and Entrepreneurship Efforts- Myung Cogan
 - ARTWORK Professional Workshops
 - Small Business Start/Grow/Finance/Learn/Connect/Innovate Information located on: [Entrepreneurship & Small Business - Athens-Clarke County Economic Development Department \(investathensga.com\)](https://investathensga.com)
 - Second Chance Committee Efforts - Kenshundria Allen & Sally Kimel-Sheppard
 - Risk and benefits of Second Chance Hiring
 - Diversion Center Specific Programs
 - Action Incorporated/WIOA Certification Courses

- Workforce Resource Map – Kenshundria Allen: [Workforce Training & Development - Athens-Clarke County Economic Development Department \(investathensga.com\)](http://Workforce Training & Development - Athens-Clarke County Economic Development Department (investathensga.com))

II. Expectations

- Task Force Member Responsibilities – Commissioner Carol Myers
- Group Norms – Kara Fresk

III. Sub-Committee Timeline – Kara Fresk

- April-May One on One Interviews with Committee Members
- May-June Sub-Committee Work Sessions
- July Final Report with ARPA Recommendations
- Expectations & Deliverables
- Inventory
- Potential Solutions
- Recommendations

Worker Empowerment

- ◆ High Quality Labor Standards
- ◆ Labor Organizing
- ◆ Benefits

Sub-Committee Members:

Sally Kimel-Sheppard

Ilka McConnell

Tim Johnson

Broderick Flanagan

High Wage Employment

- ◆ High Wage Industries

Sub-Committee Members:

Michele Pearson-Tucker

Wesley Mellina

David Bradley

Small Business Development

- ◆ Cooperative and Worker Owned Businesses

Sub-Committee Members:

Matthew Epperson

Carol Myers

IV. Closing Remarks – Commissioner Carol Myers

- Upcoming Meetings

April 29, 2024 – Full Task Force Meeting: Bobby Snipes Water Resources 12:30PM-2:00PM

- May 13 – Sub-Committee Working Meeting
- May 20 – Sub-Committee Working Meeting
- June 3 – Sub-Committee Working Meeting
- June 17 – Sub-Committee Working Meeting
- July 8 – Full Task Force Meeting – Sub-Committee Presentations

- July 15 – Full Task Force Meeting – Prioritizing
- Recommendation to Mayor & Commission
 - July 24 – Report Delivered
 - August 13 – Work Session
 - August 20 – Agenda-Setting Session
 - September 3 – Voting Session