



# OPPORTUNITY ZONE LEADERSHIP TASK FORCE

Havre de Grace  
Opera Community Center  
June 5, 2019  
4:30PM

## I. Call To Order:

Lieutenant Governor Rutherford called to order the forth regional meeting of the Opportunity Zone Leadership Task Force at 4:30PM on June 5, 2019 in Havre de Grace, Maryland.

## II. Roll Call/Attendees:

Task Force Members: Lt. Governor Rutherford, Secretary Kelly Schulz, Secretary Ken Holt, Secretary James Rzepkowski, Secretary Rob McCord, Assistant Secretary Sean Powell, Secretary Padilla, Sylvia Lawson, Phil Hutson, Thomas Sadowski, Dannielle Glaros, Jake Romanell, Robert Brennan & Dr. Charlene Dukes

Designees: Stephen Auvil, TEDCO

Presenter: Frank Dickson, DHCD

Absent: Secretary James Fielder

## III. Introductions:

1. Member Introductions - See minutes from February 22, 2019 – Governor's Reception Room Meeting
2. Mayor Martin – *Havre de Grace*  
Thank you for being here – Downtown business is booming. This Opera Center was built in 1870 and was twice a City Hall. 2-3 Years ago, the citizens voted to turn it into a community center and we are glad to welcome you to this historic building and our community.
3. Barry Glassman – *County Executive*

This is my birth place and we have seen a lot of economic development over the last couple years, we look forward to working with you all.

#### IV. New Business:

1. Secretary Holt – DHCD

Brief overview of Information Exchange. See Presentation from February 22, 2019 – Governor’s Reception Room Meeting.

Question – How can existing businesses benefit from the Opportunity Zone Program?

Answer – It isn’t necessarily OZ Capital coming to play but all the state incentives that can be stacked. MD is the first state in the nation to do stackable incentives, if they are in an OZ, they would qualify for those state benefits.

#### V. Public Comment:

1. Barbara – Edgewood

- A few concerns Edgewood – hoping to take advantage out of this program.
- We have children who have diverse childhoods and we have been begging for educational and vocational programs.
- Also, we are right on the edge of a beautiful park and there is an unwillingness for park staff to take care of our edge of the park. We need some help from the state.
- I am hoping that you are not investing in more warehouses. We have many vacant warehouses so I am hoping we are not giving tax incentives for people to build warehouses when we know they will sit vacant

Response –

- I can assure you we are working closely with Federal Government to direct investment to what we call community engagement centers – there are 2 projects: 1 in Baltimore City and 1 in Cambridge to act as test. We hope that these will support after school programs and be the center of the neighborhood. Edgewood would be a great place for a community center and that is step 1 of addressing your concerns.
- MD EARN Program does have funding available to support training in local communities & Opportunity Works specifically targets to projects in OZ’s.

- In regards to the empty warehouses – any incentives that are given are only based on the jobs that are created. If they continue to receive credits commerce follows up on an annual bases; to ensure they are not receiving benefits without work.
2. Delegate Steve Johnson – *District 34A – Harford County*  
I spent 15 years working on economic development. A lot of OZ include food deserts and I have a concern when it comes to grocery with Dollar Stores. They offer little to no nutritious foods. As a state we have struggled with cost. And I have concern with trying to incentivize businesses that are not pro-health. Maybe we can think about a certain percentage of their foods being nutritious as we move forward.
  3. Chris Moyer – *Economic Development Cecil County*  
We are really excited for the OZ Program. I think assistance will be needed from Federal and State. From Federal standpoint, there is a ticking time bomb. There is a date of 12-31-21, can we extend the ten year benefit to advantage others to get this opportunity?

Response –

We are here to listen to what you have as far as ideas for your communities. That is the most important part. The state can provide you the resource but the community is determining what it wants to look like at the end of the day. We are here to assist in what your vision is for your community.

4. Dr. Elaine Hershey - *UM Memorial Hospital*  
I am not sure how it fits in OZ but it is important that we retain a full service functioning hospital in Harford and Cecil County. We are so closely tied to Cecil and in this area we are strangled by social economic issues and that river is a huge barrier. We need those beds to serve this community.

Response –

We met with Mayor Martin today and we did discuss this. I want to do some follow up to see how we got to this point because one of the challenges is the lack of communication from the Chesapeake Health System and UMMS and City.

5. Linda Perry – *Baltimore City Business Owner*  
I own a health care business in Baltimore City but we have clients throughout MD. I was wondering is it only for brick and mortar businesses or what if we are going into a home that is in an OZ - we are caregivers.

Response –

This is an issue that regulators grappled with. You need to be headquartered in an OZ. There are criteria that you have to meet to qualify, such as: where your

income being generated for employees – if that is happening out of your headquarters then you would be fine.

6. Patrick Sypolt – *Havre de Grace*

We have a boundary that we feel needs to be adjusted and we want to solicit state support to have boundaries reconsidered.

Response –

While it may appear that some of that area should be qualified, the census tract could have incorporated a much broader area that disqualified that location. Those boundary lines are set. There we census tracts that looked like they should be considered an OZ but was in fact not low income. These boundaries are locked for 10 years.

7. Warren Hartenside –

We appreciate the 2 OZ in our area. In regards to the hospital – we can think bigger. We possess a 600 acre parcel on the only undeveloped intersection between Richmond and Boston. Think beyond the hospital think about those 600 acres that could benefit the whole state of MD.

8. Julie Rockie – *Havre de Grace Resident*

We need training in the trades, the industrial park may not be in the OZ itself but in between that we need training for those jobs.

Response –

Commerce – Let's connect after this, we can work together and look at local training opportunities for the community.

MACo – MD Work Smart Program also has the availability to check the appropriate training needed in the area.

9. Alan McCarthy – *Cecil County*

We put together a vocational school that has been open for 3 years and we have reached out to local companies and received funding and equipment to train the students. I want to utilize this space we have to bring in the Colleges and let them use the facility when it isn't being used by high schools, I think we should work together on this.

**VI. Closing Remarks:**

Lt. Governor – Thank you all for coming out. The next meeting will be hosted in Frostburg on July 10, 2019 at 4:30PM.

**VII. Next Meeting**

Location: Frostburg State University

Date: July 10, 2019

Time: 4:30PM

**VIII. Adjournment**

Lt. Governor adjourned the meeting at 5:51PM.