



Innovation & Technology Inclusion Council

January 25, 2023

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Washington DC Economic Partnership
1495 F St NW, Washington, DC 20004

MINUTES

- I. Welcome & Introductions (15 min)
 - A. Thomas Sanchez, Chair, ITIC
 - Three buckets for ITIC to focus on:
 1. Community.
 2. Policy and action.
 3. More purpose and governance.
 - We will send out the survey again.
 - B. Katie Littman, Point of Contact, DMPED
 - New DMPED POC for ITIC. Filling shoes of Joy James.
 - C. Sybongile Cook, Director of Business Development & Strategy, DMPED
 - Glad to see people meeting in person again.

- II. Presentations and Discussion (30 min)
 - A. [DC's Comeback Plan: Our 2023-2027 Economic Development Strategy](#)
 - Katie Littman:
 - This Comeback Plan is an economic development strategy but touches all of District government. Every five years, the Mayor updates her economic development strategy to submit to the federal Economic Development Administration.
 - Public comment open until Feb. 1.
 - You can find the plan here: <https://www.obviouslydc.com/dcs-comeback-plan/home>
 - Thomas Sanchez: From an ITIC perspective, when would be the best point to plug in? This summer into next year?
 - Katie Littman: Yes, that's when we do our ideating: late summer early fall.
 - Gage Javier: Where can we find the official breakdown of populations by ward? Is there a way of understanding where our services and initiatives would be best served from a population standpoint? Do we have similar mapping for businesses and tech sectors where DC might be trying to grow? SMB and

John Falcicchio
Deputy Mayor



minority-owned resources where we can examine that too? Do we have historical and institutional knowledge? What steps did we take to get info from business community about the gaps? I love the idea of where we are going. But I wonder if we might also take a look at the missing pieces and at potential resources we could push harder.

- Cleve Mesidor: I have some thoughts on the dedicated tech entity piece. I work in the crypto space. I have concerns about creating a dedicated tech entity if it will not benefit communities of color. Low-income communities don't benefit from existing structures. Examples of entities lack diversity. There is a need to innovate. I advocate for inclusion in crypto as well. Everyone wants to advance inclusion, but no one wants to put hard work in place.
- Erin Horne-McKinney: The District has been a leader in the country around inclusive innovation. A lot of other jurisdictions try to follow. A lot of jurisdictions didn't have that embedded from the inception. I remember there being an effort at OCTO on broadband. The internet goes out at Howard (an HBCU) all the time. We need infrastructure in place addressing those issues. We need to service them. Issue at Howard just as an example. All of our community services are online. Creating a business is the same way. Access to capital is a critical need... There are a number of efforts to build on that. How to continue to be a leader across country and world?
 - I definitely agree with you that DC has been a leader. The result hasn't changed. We wouldn't have one of the biggest income gaps in the country. There is a reason those results have not reached those communities.
 - Economic development takes time. A lot has been pilot programs. The fact that the council exists is unique. The impact of the work on this council hasn't shown up in the data yet.

B. [DC's Budget Basics](#)

- Sybongile Cook: I think it's also important to share some recommendations for FY24. Thinking about long game, planting seeds to harvest year after year after year. Not the last shot. Laying out our policy recommendations. Let's think about top things to elevate now. What else can we mine as a community for the future? Switch from playing checkers to chess. Lasting impact.

III. Overview of ITIC (30 min)

- A. Charter Review
- B. Subcommittees
- C. Meeting Schedule for 2023

IV. DMPED Remarks (10 min)

- A. Greetings from John Falcicchio, Deputy Mayor for Planning & Economic Development
 - John Falcicchio: We are focused on how we bring jobs and employers to DC. DC is place where people come to change the world. Not just policy shops. How do we get more businesses to come and grow here. Where are the leads? Where should district focus? On Obviously DC.com, you will see the gamut of what we



have. Mayor presents new budget on 22nd. I look to you all to think of how we can be a good steward of what is new and great.

- I'm a hardware entrepreneur. How are you addressing the need for artist space?
 - We are working with Anacostia BID to think about how to create space with their funding from the District. How do we create live-work spaces too. Retail spaces that are 250 sq feet. Work in it and do retail. Industrial space is tough. Local manufacturing space is also tough to find.
- I was excited to hear about dedicated tech entity. What's the timeframe and process for getting that into the budget?
 - Our cycle of how we operate. We're in budget process now. Our budget year starts on Oct. 1. It's kind of fast, and we're already in January. We might have the funding to do that on Oct. 1. There are sometimes ways to cobble together money. When we put things in the budget like that we need voices to talk to the council about why that could work.

B. Programmatic Updates:

- [Inclusive Innovation Equity Impact Fund](#) (closing January 31st)

V. Next Steps (5 min)

VI. Adjourn

