



## CITY OF DETROIT MAYOR'S WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

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Wednesday, June 21, 2022

3-5 p.m.

Location: In-person at Detroit Public Safety Headquarters

### **Proposed Meeting Minutes** **Co-Chairs: *Dave Meador & Darienne Hudson***

#### **Call to Order**

Co-Chair Dave Meador called the Mayor's Workforce Development Board Meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

#### **Approval of Agenda & Minutes**

June 2023 Agenda and March 2023 Minutes

Co-Chair Dave Meador asked for a motion to approve the Agenda & Minutes as presented. Moved by Carla Walker Miller, supported by Bishop Edgar Van. Motion Approved.

### **REPORTS**

#### **Co-Chair's Report – Dave Meador & Darienne Hudson**

**Resident Employment Update:** Co-Chair Dave Meador began the co-chair's report noting the departure of the board's Executive Director Nicole Sherard-Freeman. Ms. Sherard-Freeman clarified the addition of a new Co-Chair, Darienne Hudson, who replaces outgoing Co-Chair Cindy Pasky, who recently stepped down from the board. Mr. Meador continued noting the Residential Employment Chart numbers with a look back to the original One Detroit Strategy which at its origination had a NorthStar goal of putting 100,000 people to work. With the dip during Covid, Mr. Meador noted we've put over 60,000 people back into jobs and the work continues. He thanked the mayor for his leadership, noting the importance of this public/private partnership.

Mr. Meador continued with board member updates, again noting the departure of Ms. Sherard-Freeman, and board member M. Roy Wilson, President, Wayne State University. He continued by noting the addition of a new board member. Mr. Tony Tomczak, Vice President DTE.

Mr. Meador highlighted the recent Mackinac Policy Conference and a panel presentation titled, "The Detroit Region's Fierce Competition for Talent," which featured board members Jeff Donofrio, Dave Meador and Executive Director Nicole Sherard-Freeman among others. The panel discussed decreasing population, labor force participation rates and postsecondary enrollment and completion rates as some of the macrotrends that pose long-term headwinds for the Detroit Region and its employers. The session showcased efforts underway and big ideas

on how to regionally address challenges in our talent development infrastructure for long-term economic stability and growth.

Mr. Meador closed the co-chairs report with a nod to the Mayor for his commitment with ARPA funding that's been allocated to workforce development and the impact that makes with giving residents the resource they need to get trained for an in-demand job.

Ms. Darienne Hudson gave a few remarks as she embarked on her first meeting serving as co-chair, noting she was thrilled to step into this role alongside Dave Meador. She thanked the former co-chair Ms. Pasky for her words of encouragement and thanked Nicole Sherard-Freeman for the opportunity to learn from her and partner with her. She closed by noting the work being done at United Way to help with wraparound services for job seekers and removing barriers to employment.

*Acknowledgements and comments from board members ensued.*

### **Guest Speaker - Mayor Mike Duggan**

Mayor Duggan opened his presentation by thanking the board for their time. He noted a study by JP Morgan at the onset of the One Detroit Strategy that showed the majority of jobs in the city were being filled by suburbanites and the majority of Detroiters were working in the suburbs. He continued by noting the strategy developed with the MWDB co-chairs Cindy Pasky and Dave Meador and with the leadership of the mayor and Nicole Sherard-Freeman was to start with employers, identify the jobs they want filled and train Detroiters for those jobs. That process has built Detroit at Work the reputation it has today as a place Detroiters can access job training and job placement within the city. He highlighted the excellence Nicole Sherard-Freeman has provided in this role as the head of Workforce and Economic Development in the city. He closed his remarks by thanking Darienne Hudson for stepping into the role as a new co-chair, he announced the new head of Workforce and the new Executive Director of this board as Ms. Terri Weems, who currently sits as the President of Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation, and he noted the new head of Economic Development will be Hassan Beydoun.

The mayor later presented a proclamation to Nicole Sherard-Freeman.

### **Executive Director's Report - Nicole Sherard-Freeman**

Ms. Sherard-Freeman began her presentation with a reflection on the work of this board, noting the importance during this transition for Ms. Terri Weems and Mr. Hassan Beydoun to take this work forward and in a new direction.

Ms. Sherard-Freeman continued by highlighting the reseating of this board in 2015, noting board member Mr. Jeff Donofrio as its inaugural director. She referenced what we now know as the ecosystem for Detroit at Work which includes the mayor's office, Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation and 9 career center partners and more than 30 training partners that now provide opportunity for Detroiters in a way that is accessible and readily available to the average resident.

She noted policy and barrier removal work like Project Clean Slate and Detroit Promise and then drew attention more recently to the work being done from 2019 to the present through this

board. She noted the measurable impact on Detroiters, growing the economy through 10 large economic development deals and setting a new standard for economic and workforce development in the city that would provide opportunities for more than 40,000 Detroiters. She thanked Dana Williams, Chief Strategy Officer, Detroit at Work for the work her team has done to secure more than 15 priority hiring agreements with employers who have agreed to give Detroiters the first shot at the opportunities available in their organizations. She highlighted Stellantis as the blueprint for this and noted that growing the economy has been a key focus of this board.

Ms. Sherard-Freeman continued by echoing the earlier nod to the mayor for his commitment to workforce and economic development with more than \$100M in ARPA funding. She highlighted growth in the number of career centers, expanding from 3 to 9 and 4 career centers for youth which has served more than 70,000 youth and more than 100,000 Detroiters across those career centers. She credited Stephanie Nixon and the work done by Misty Evans with Grow Detroit's Young Talent. She noted the launch of Friends & Family, a gun-violence reduction program, the Lawton Parole Center and the Community Health Corps, led by then Deputy Mayor Conrad Mallett and Sheilah Clay.

Ms. Sherard-Freeman expressed that the board should feel good about the way resident employment has quickly bounced back post Covid-19 and how Detroit at Work is now a household brand where Detroiters know they can find opportunity. Lastly, she highlighted several of the signature programs including Learn to Earn, Skills for Life, JumpStart and Grow Detroit's Young Talent where more than 62,000 young people in the city of Detroit have had an opportunity.

She continued by noting that this work is enabled by the leadership of this board and the leadership of Terri Weems at DESC. Ms. Sherard-Freeman noted the way the board and DESC are woven together in a sustainable way so that the work continues and lives on beyond what we've accomplished so far. She then introduced Ms. Nneka Carter-Young as the new director of the Community Health Corps.

Ms. Sherard-Freeman invited guest speakers of the workforce and the community that have been impacted by these programs and the work of this board. Beginning with Mr. Sylvester Hester, President & CEO, LM Manufacturing, a city of Detroit partner. Mr. Hester noted the work they do provides complete seat sets for Ford Motor Company for the Ford Ranger and the Bronco. This manufacturing work is done in the city of Detroit and to date, through the work he's done with Ms. Sheard-Freeman and Detroit at Work, they've hired 658 Detroiters and 154 have been promoted from within.

Next to the podium was Skills for Life participant Darius Dent. Skills for Life is funded entirely with ARPA funding and is a work 3 days, go to school 2 days per week program. Mr. Dent is 33 and was born and raised in Detroit. He faced lack of job opportunities, resources, and poverty. These unfortunate conditions led him to incarceration. He later went to school at FocusHope, and developed a passion for the skilled trades before coming to the Skills For Life Program. Through Skills for Life and EITI, he feels he has job opportunities and access to resources for jobs and has turned his life around.

The final guest speaker, Jennifer Greer, was from the Community Health Corps program, which provides wraparound services and opportunities for Detroiters. Ms. Greer is 39 and came to the program from a domestic violence situation. Through the work of the Community Health Corps, she now has housing, mental health services and transportation. With the Detroit at Work

program she's getting her GED and has received training and job opportunities. She doesn't know where she'd be without these services.

Ms. Sherard-Freeman closed her report by inviting the board's new Executive Director Terri Weems to speak. Ms. Weems expressed that she's thrilled to build upon the work of this board, noting her familiarity for this work and her passion for this work. She noted she was especially moved by the impact the work of this board has had on the community listening to the guest speakers today.

*Questions and comments from board members ensued.*

### **Public Comment**

Co-Chair Darienne Hudson asked for public comment. No public comment.

### **Adjournment**

Co-Chair Dave Meador called for a motion to adjourn. Moved by Alice Thompson. Supported by Dr. Ivery. Meeting adjourned at 4:18 p.m.

### **Board Member Attendees**

Alice Thompson, Andra Rush, Angelique Power, Bill Robinson, Bruce Dall, Byron Osbern, Carla Walker Miller, Colleen Allen, Conrad Mallett, Dr. Curtis Ivery, Darienne Hudson, Dave Meador, Bishop Edgar Vann, Faye Nelson, Jeff Donofrio, Josh Sirefman, Mark Gaffney, Mike McLauchlan, Mike Haller, Nia Winston, Sandro DiNello, Tony Tomczak, Heaster Wheeler, Alycia Meriweather