News

Dlhopolsky Appointed Chair of Nightime Economy Task Force

Attorneys

Heather Dlhopolsky

LEGGETT ANNOUNCES MEMBERS OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY'S

"NIGHTTIME ECONOMY" TASK FORCE

Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett recently announced his appointments to the County's Nighttime Economy Task Force designed to evaluate and push forward changes to encourage increased nighttime business and social activity for residents, employees, and visitors of all ages and cultural backgrounds. Heather Dlhopolsky, Associate with Linowes and Blocher was named Chair of the Task Force.

The Nighttime Economy Task Force will examine policies, resources and amenities that address Montgomery County's nightlife offerings. Specifically, the task force will address policies that can boost entertainment offerings throughout the County, increase financial prospects of employment and business development while also helping to enhance the sense of community throughout the communities that make up our county.

"This initiative reflects my vision for a 21st century Montgomery that is innovation-driven, transit-friendly, connected, and multi-generational," said Leggett. "A thriving nighttime economy is an opportunity to enhance Montgomery's attractiveness to all generations, businesses and visitors. In its first phase, the focus will be on Bethesda, Silver Spring, Rockville, Germantown, and Wheaton."

Through the Nighttime Economy Task Force, the County will examine the following questions and opportunities:

- What kind of mix of business, entertainment and arts would make a vibrant and attractive urban center?
- How do we attract businesses in defined geographic areas that appeal to multiple generations?
- What are the national trends and models on nighttime economy?
- How do we develop local models to enhance the County's nighttime offerings in its urban centers?

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The Task Force members announced are:

Name

Role

Area they represent

Industry

1. Heather Dlhopolsky

Chair

Bethesda

Board Member and Vice President of Economic Development of BCC Chamber; Linowes and Blocher LLP

2. Henriot St. Gerard

Vice Chair

Wheaton

Chair of the Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee

3. Kristina Bigby

Transportation lead

County

Barwood Transportation

4. Andy Chod

Public Space and Amenities lead

Upcounty

Minkoff Development

5. Mike Diegel

Arts & Entertainment lead

Continued

Silver Spring

Chair of the Silver Spring Arts & Entertainment Advisory Committee

6. Miti Figueredo

Transportation lead

Downcounty

Chevy Chase Land Company

7. Evan Glass

Quality of Life

Silver Spring

Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Committee

8. Will Jawando

Quality of Life lead

Silver Spring

Discovery Communications

9. Erica Leatham

Public Space and Amenities lead

Bethesda

Ballard Spahr, Chair of Arts & Humanities Council

10. Alice Nappy

Arts & Entertainment lead

Rockville

VisArts

11. Megan Pagado

Continued

Arts & Entertainment lead

Silver Spring

Assistant Manager of Digital Media at Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center

12. Dan Reed

Transportation lead

Silver Spring

Community Activist

13. Vanessa Rodriguez

Business Engagement lead

Bethesda

FRIC

14. Alan Pohoryles

Venue Safety lead

Bethesda

Tommy Joes Restaurant

15. Jonathan Sachs

Business engagement lead

County

Adventist Healthcare

16. Holly Sears

Business Engagement lead

County

Montgomery Business Development Corporation

Continued

17. Will Smith

Public Safety lead

Silver Spring

Resident

18. Stephanie Steele

Venue Safety lead

Silver Spring

Fillmore

19. Gam Wijetunge

Public Safety lead

Wheaton

Wheaton Volunteer Rescue Squad & Member of Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board

20. Doug Wrenn

Quality of Life lead

Upcounty

Rodgers Consulting

21. Linda Price

Council Staff

The Task Force is expected to complete its policy recommendations within six months of its first meeting.

Lead County staff for the effort will be Ana Lopez van Balen, Mid-County Regional Director; Kathie Durbin, Chief, Department of Liquor Control; Gabe Albornoz, Director, Department of Recreation; and Dan Hoffman, Chief Innovation Officer.

Additional representatives will come from the County Council staff and local municipalities. Additional members of the community will be involved through issue group meetings or through community forums that will be established to vet

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recommendations from the task force.

Serving as ex-officio members will be County Councilmembers Marc Elrich, Valerie Ervin, Nancy Floreen, and Hans Riemer.

Task Force chair Heather Dlholopolsky can be contacted at nighttimeeconomy.cex@montgomerycountymd.gov for questions related to the task force.