

News

Dlhopolsky is Speaker at Sociable City Summit

Attorneys

Heather Dlhopolsky

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Heather Dlhopolsky, Associate at Linowes and Blocher LLP, a business and real estate law firm, will be a speaker at the Maryland Sociable City Leadership Summit 2013 in Silver Spring, Maryland on June 24th and 25th. She will be speaking on a panel titled "The Social Economy-From Vision to Reality," alongside Cathy Lanier, Chief, DC Metropolitan Police Department and moderator George Griffin, Director, Montgomery County Department of Liquor Control. Ms. Dlhopolsky is Chair of the 19 member Montgomery County Nighttime Economy Task Force. The Montgomery County Nighttime Economy Task Force will present its vision to "develop creative placemaking opportunities and sensible policies that encourages an increased nighttime social life for residents, employees, and visitors of all ages and cultural backgrounds". Ms. Dlhopolsky will present the broader goals and structure of the task force and how it might serve as a model for other regional initiatives. As one of the most affluent counties in the United States, Montgomery County is rapidly becoming a regional destination for dining and entertainment venues, with the Nighttime Economy Task Force charged with establishing strategies to update policies and promote the County's potential.

The Summit will define entertainment as among the largest trends in retailing and urban redevelopment, and is credited with revitalizing many downtowns. Consequently, many cities are attempting to replicate this success by developing pedestrian-oriented entertainment/social districts consisting of cinema, nightclubs, bars, restaurants, and retail shopping. When properly planned and well-managed, social districts with dining and entertainment venues facilitate vibrancy and sociability among residents and visitors. A key economic engine, the hospitality industry creates jobs and enhances a city's competitive advantage to attract businesses, residents, students, conventions and tourists. Yet an emerging challenge is how to manage negative impacts associated with active nightlife. Increased crime, fights, noise, litter, and DUI are among the most common challenges. Resources and budgets are limited to address these issues. Yet practical, cost-effective solutions do exist.

Other speakers include Jim Peters, President, Responsible Hospitality Institute, and David Feehan, President of Civitas Consultants LLC.