



City of Milwaukee

200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
53202

Meeting Minutes AFRICAN AMERICAN MALE UNEMPLOYMENT TASK FORCE

**ALD. ASHANTI HAMILTON, CO-CHAIR AND ALD. TONY
ZIELINSKI, CO-CHAIR**

**Deborah Blanks, Sedgwick Daniels, Ald. Joe Davis, Joe
Fahey, Pam Fendt, Curt Harris, Wendell Harris, Ralph
Hollmon, Carl Jaskolski, Ossie Kendrix, Marc Levine, Arturo
Martinez, Gerard Randall, Michael Rosen, Tim Sheehy, Julia
Taylor, McArthur Weddle, Lenard Wells and Ken Wheeler**

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Tuesday, November 16, 2010

12:00 PM

Room 303, City Hall

Meeting convened: 12:12 P.M.

Members excused: Arturo Martinez, Ald. Joe Davis, Tim Sheehy and Pam Fendt.

Members absent: Michael Rosen, Ken Wheeler, Sedgwick Daniels and Julia Taylor

1. Review and approval of the minutes of the October 26th meeting.

Mr. Randall moved, seconded by Mr. Fahey, for approval of the minutes. There were no objections.

2. Update on the working groups and discussion relating to their activities.

Mr. Curtis Harris said that at the working group meeting he was told that contractors cannot be added to the contracts which were already let out. He would like to explore if these deadlines are absolute, particularly as they relate to subcontracts and the effect on African American unemployment on letting of these contracts. This subcommittee will be meeting again.

Jeff Lemon, a member of the public, noted that the job-creation initiative from the last meeting is not on this agenda and he feels this body should implement this plan. Mr. Hollmon supported short-term, intermediate and long-term goals by this body because there are currently unemployed individuals who are hurting; Mr. Hollmon sees Build Milwaukee as a long-term solution. A member of the public noted that Build Milwaukee did not ask for an action item; they just asked for this body's support on the city level.

3. Discussion relating to suggestions via the web site.

Members did review the suggestions received from the public. Ald. Zielinski was pleased that about 50-60 suggestions were received.

4. Other issues to explore relating to African American male unemployment.

This matter was taken up out of order after approval of the minutes.

Joe Oulahan, Hire Milwaukee Center, spoke to the task force about combining state funds with the task force's funds. He delivers dislocated worker benefits to employees who are laid off due to no fault of their own and who are eligible for unemployment benefits. Individuals are eligible for up to \$7,000 for books and classes, as well as \$2,500 to upgrade basic skills. There are also funds for employers who are willing to offer on-the-job training as well as additional services/benefits offered by the state. The Center would like to use some of these funds for job creation, rather than filling existing jobs.

A member of the public feels that the elevator industry is openly discriminatory against black males. Ald. Zielinski will contact this individual prior to the next meeting about this issue.

5. Creation of any additional working groups.

Ald. Zielinski spoke to Quad/Graphic management who are willing to hire individuals, but transportation is always an issue. He also spoke with individuals at Bucyrus. Pat Henderson, Director of Governmental Affairs for Quad/Graphics, said that they'll be adding 1,000 to 1,3000 jobs over the next 10 years. They are interested in getting employees to their plants as that seems to be the biggest hurdle. Most of the jobs will be at the Sussex plant, which does not have public transportation. They are projecting 700 new jobs in the next 3 years and they are currently merging with World Color, which will lead to the need for more jobs. They have a number of applicants right now for those anticipated jobs. The body will be creating a pool of individuals who are seeking employment and match them up with employers where they can be successful. Mr. Hollmon noted that this task force needs to be aware that there is a huge population of chronically employed who have issues and barriers and if this body wants to reduce unemployment, that's the group that will need to be dealt with.

The new subcommittees are:

"Job training connections", which will work with Mr. Oulahan to identify workers who could qualify for the state funds as outlined by Mr. Oulahan. The subcommittee members are Carl Jaskolski, Wendell Harris and Lenard Wells.

Connecting unemployed with existing jobs:

*Gerard Randall
Ald. Zielinski
Deb Blanks*

Integration/coordination of services:

*Ald. Hamilton
Deborah Blanks
Ossie Kendrix
Ralph Hollmon
Mike Soika (not a member of the task force)*

Education Reform :

*Carl Jaskowski
Ald. Hamilton
Mike Soika (not a member of the task force)
Ptosah Davis (not a member of the task force)*

Criminal Justice Systems Veterans/Ex-Offenders:

Tee Edwards (not a member of the task force)
Mac Weddle
Lenard Wells
Joe Fahey

Job creation:
Marc Levine
Ald. Zielinski
Ald. Hamilton
Ald. Zielinski thinks this body should pursue having government contracts move existing jobs from third world countries to Milwaukee.

6. Set next meeting date and agenda.

December 14th at noon.
Lenard Wells will not be able to attend this meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 1:20 P.M.
Linda M. Elmer
Staff Assistant