



Notes From Inside The Beltway

Washington

Trump Makes Opportunity Zone Thrust Official: President Donald Trump makes his administration initiative to revitalize inner-city neighborhoods with a fusion of public and private financing official after signing an executive order Dec. 12. The administration's zone initiative, authorized by the Tax Cuts & Jobs Act of 2017, is augmented in the same order by the creation of the White House Opportunity & Revitalization Council designed to accelerate the application of federal programs to opportunity zones. Trump named HUD Secretary Ben Carson to chair the council. "The Council's 13 Federal member agencies will engage with governments at all levels on ways to more effectively use taxpayer dollars to revitalize low-income communities," the White House statement says. "The Council will improve revitalization efforts by streamlining, coordinating, and targeting existing federal programs to Opportunity Zones, economically distressed communities where new investments may be eligible for preferential tax treatment." The council will also craft legislative proposals and study relaxation of regulations to help fuel revitalization efforts. **Info:** See the executive order at www.cdpublications.com/docs/9596