

## MINUTES

### MUNICIPAL FINANCIAL RECOVERY ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE CITY OF CHESTER

July 27, 2021

1:00 p.m.

**Chester City Hall  
Council Chambers  
1 Fourth Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Chester, PA 19013  
And VIA ZOOM**

**Present:** Michael T. Doweary, Receiver  
Kim Bracey, DCED, Executive Director for the Governor's Center for Local Government Services  
Kelly Diaz, County of Delaware, Office of the Controller, Sr. Accountant  
Vijay Kapoor, Chief of Staff to the Receiver  
Cody Deal, Executive Assistant  
Dr. Christopher Hannum  
Director Livia Smith, Bureau of Health  
Ms. Gloria Carter, Bureau of Health

**Absent:** Mayor Thaddeus Kirkland  
Councilman William Jacobs

The Municipal Financial Recovery Advisory Committee meeting began at 1:00 p.m. The meeting was streamed on the Chester City's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/cityofchester/>.

#### **Minutes of July 13 MFRAC Meeting**

The Receiver asked if there were any changes or addendums to the July 13, 2021 Municipal Financial Recovery Advisory Committee meeting minutes.

Director Bracey made the remark that there may not be a quorum due to the absence of some of the committee members, so the approval of these minutes was tabled until the next MFRAC Meeting.

#### **Reports**

The Receiver opened the floor to Mr. Kapoor to provide a progress update for the Receiver's team.

Mr. Kapoor gave a brief update on the Recovery Plan, beginning with the recent efforts surrounding public works issues. He informed the committee that there are 6 additional part time per diem workers who will aid with grass cutting and bulk trash issues. Due to the current collective bargaining agreement, these workers will be available through August 31<sup>st</sup>, with hopes of adding two additional workers as well.

The Receiver's Team has also been working with the city on implementing the most recent plan, with a key item being getting the public up to speed on reporting trash pickup delays correctly. He was happy to report that the previous Wednesday found the city's trash collection finally getting more caught up.

Internally, the Receiver's team has been working on the ARPA fund planning and how these funds will be used in the City. More info for the public should be available soon as these plans are finalized.

Director Bracey asked if there were any further feedback from the public following their previous presentation on public works. Mr. Kapoor mentioned there were a few direct reach outs from the public, primarily being appreciative of us providing them this information on what Receivership is doing directly. Another area of feedback was the public's desire to be kept updated, which will be a focus of the Receiver's team moving forward.

The Receiver added that there were also responses received from his team's inquiries and outgoing communications. He mentioned that he had a direct reach out from the residents of Highland Gardens, where he walked the neighborhood with a few residents just this morning. He also acknowledged Covanta and his recent meeting with their community liaison for brainstorming more options with bulk trash. He also mentioned the support received from SCI Chester, and his team's excitement about where a collaborative effort with the Correctional Institute can go.

## **Receiver Update**

The Receiver thanked Mr. Kapoor for the update and opened the floor for any questions, which there were none.

The Receiver mentioned Breakfast with the Receiver this upcoming Saturday, where he hopes to have more interaction with the community. The event will be held at the East End Rec Center on 11<sup>th</sup> and Upland. The plan is for it to be a community meet up/clean up at the park. He stated he is looking forward to hearing more from the residents, especially as it pertains to how the public would like to see the ARPA funding utilized. Details on the event and how to register can be found on [chesterreceivership.com](http://chesterreceivership.com).

He also acknowledged the positive decline of gun violence in the city during the past year. He gave a shoutout to the DA's office as well as the police department and all of the various other groups involved in helping to make this happen.

He circled back to a comment received last week regarding the outsourcing of bulk trash. The comment mentioned the outsourcing of grass cutting as well to help relieve the city's burden. The Receiver mentioned that this comment was well received and will be considered moving forward. He also mentioned another contractor being brought on by his team, A2Z Diversity, which will be performing work to increase small business diversity and inclusion in the city.

He ended his update by mentioning the polling for ARPA funding. He asked for public input on the decision for how the money will be used. Currently there are polls active on Facebook and the receivership website, and that he is always open to direct communication about these matters from the public.

## **Public Works Presentation**

The Receiver passed the floor to Mr. Kapoor and our guests for their Public Health Presentation, which can be found on the receivership website – [www.chesterreceivership.com](http://www.chesterreceivership.com).

The presentation centered around the City's COVID response.

After completing the presentation, the Receiver turned it over to the committee for any follow up questions, which there were none. Director Bracey commended the receiver's team on their work and reiterated the state's stance that they are ready to assist in any way possible. Ms. Diaz also commended the team on their efforts and partnerships formed in combating the virus.

The Receiver asked Ms. Diaz on the status of the development of the County's Health Department. Ms. Diaz said she was not fully sure of the start date but would confirm and provide that info at the next meeting. The receiver then asked Mr. Deal to work with the city to promote all the upcoming health events on the receivership website as well. Ms. Carter remarked that the information can also be accessed on the city's website.

## **Public Comments**

The Receiver noted the comments received through [info@chesterreceivership.com](mailto:info@chesterreceivership.com). All comments were related to the CWA and potential sale, still in litigation. He mentioned he is advocating for the City to keep possession of the authority, however it is not something his team is actively working on.

The receiver opened the floor for any questions or comments, which there were none.

## **Member Comments**

The receiver opened the floor for any closing comments, which there were none.

There being no further business to discuss, the Receiver adjourned the meeting at 2:46 p.m.

The next Municipal Financial Recovery Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at Chester City Hall, City Council Chambers, 1 Fourth Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Chester, PA 19013, and streamed VIA ZOOM through the City's Facebook page.

Approved this 10<sup>th</sup> Day of August 2021.

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Michael T. Doweary  
Receiver for the City of Chester

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Secretary – Cody Deal