

## MINUTES

### MUNICIPAL FINANCIAL RECOVERY ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE CITY OF CHESTER August 10, 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  
Kelly Diaz, County of Delaware, Office of the Controller, Sr. Accountant  
Vijay Kapoor, Chief of Staff to the Receiver  
Cody Deal, Executive Assistant  
Mayor Thaddeus Kirkland

**Absent:** Councilman William Jacobs  
Kim Bracey, DCED, Executive Director for the Governor's Center for Local Government Services

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 and July 27 MFRAC Meetings**

The Receiver noted there was not a quorum for this meeting, pushing the approvals for these to 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 followed up on two previously presented items regarding the COVID situation in Chester and the City's public works. Regarding COVID, Mr. Kapoor noted there have been 10,974 fully vaccinated residents, and 1,683 partially vaccinated residents. He also mentioned the city's recently held mandatory employee meetings, part of which included a mandate for masks to be worn when entering city hall, regardless of vaccination status. Mr. Kapoor went on to mention a few of the vaccination events that are upcoming in the city, encouraging those who have not yet been vaccinated to do so. Specifically, Keystone First is holding a clinic this weekend, with other events being posted on the city website as well.

Mr. Kapoor also mentioned an event being held by Chester Upland School District on Thursday, also held via zoom as a sort of town hall meeting. Questions will be taken from the public surrounding the vaccine and other information relevant to the upcoming school year.

Public works efforts were also discussed, with Mr. Kapoor mentioning the 8 temporary employees approved by the Receiver for help with grass cutting. This will hopefully allow the public works department to get to some of the other areas of need they are tasked with handling. The county will also be helping with grass cutting to begin next week, further alleviating the stress on the public works department. He also thanked the Storm Water Authority for their help with emptying trash cans throughout the city. Street sweeping will also be performed in the upcoming weeks.

Mr. Kapoor also thanked SCI Chester for their offer to help with grass cutting. Lastly, he said the Receiver's team would be reaching out to the DA's office for more assistance with the illegal dumping, as well as the plan for installation of cameras to try and mitigate this issue.

Mayor Kirkland remarked that he heard from multiple constituents just today about how they are appreciative of the work being done by the Receiver's team along with the city. He thanked the city workers and the storm water authority for all of their recent efforts.

The receiver opened the floor for any other questions or comments, which there were none. He went on to also thank the city's employees for their efforts as well.

## **Receiver Update**

The Receiver continued into his own update, beginning with a thank you to everyone who attend or intended to attend the July 31<sup>st</sup> Breakfast with the Receiver event. He noted a good discussion was held for about an hour and a half before the group went to work on cleaning up the East End Rec Center. He specifically thanked Councilwoman Williams for coming to share rental and housing assistance being offered in the city. He also thanked councilwoman West for her teams last minute assistance in helping to pick up the trash from the cleanup. Lastly, he thanked Carol Kazeem from Chester City Sweeps for her assistance, and former Mayor Linder for coming out to help as well. He acknowledged Mayor Kirkland for coming by as well even though he was overbooked. He noted that he is looking at the first Saturday after Labor Day for the next cleanup, with details coming at the next MFRAC Meeting.

The Receiver also acknowledged SCI Chester's desire to help the city, specifically with their adoption of a park. He mentioned that anyone else interested in doing the same is encouraged to reach out.

The ongoing ARPA planning was also mentioned. He asked the public again for their input on where they would like to see the funds being used in the City. He noted the various polling outlets, receivership website, and receivership email can be used for public responses.

The Receiver mentioned a number of current job openings on the city website as well for those looking for work.

He also thanked all the partners stepping up to combat the pandemic, stating that his team is continually working on bringing as many partners together as possible to help the city in all areas.

Lastly, he noted that a concern was raised that his team is primarily focused on refuse and cleaning the city when there are so many other issues. He explained that his team is tasked with a core 8 fundamental items that must be delivered by any municipality for their residents, with these cleanliness and safety issues being primary. Once these are addressed and in a place that can be maintained, his team can move on to the other items. He finished by reiterating Mayor Kirkland's statement that this is a team effort and not a competition between the Receiver's Team and the City and that it can only be accomplished together.

He opened the floor for any other comments, which there were none.

### **Public Comments**

The Receiver noted the comments received through [info@chesterreceivership.com](mailto:info@chesterreceivership.com). All comments except for one were related to the CWA and potential sale, still in litigation. There was a comment of encouragement received as well, which he thanked the constituent for.

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. Ms. Diaz wanted to follow up on her previous meeting comment to provide a date for the opening of the county health department, slated to open on January 1, 2022. The Receiver thanked Ms. Diaz, also stating he is looking forward to seeing how this will develop and help the city.

There being no further business to discuss, the Receiver adjourned the meeting at 1:26 p.m.

The next Municipal Financial Recovery Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 24<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 24<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