

Gosetti, Michael G.

From: Karyn Rotker <krotker@aclu-wi.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 12:04 PM
To: Ella Dunbar; Guadalupe "Wally" Rendon; Jackie Schellinger; Jedd Lapid; N. Lynnette McNeely; Nancy Holmlund; Ness Flores; Ness Flores; Theresa Schuerman; Tyrone Dumas; Wallace White; Willie Wade; Yolanda Satos Adams; McKay, Benjamin R.
Subject: Re: FW: CEDS Public Comment

Ben

Here are supplemental comments on the economic development plan. I do not have email addresses of all recipients of your prior email, but am sending to you and to those to whom email addresses are available and request this be shared with the EJTF.

- 1) Do any of the Economic Development Plan advisory committee members represent minority businesses? (I am aware that a few of the members are persons of color - but it is not clear that they are representing minority-owned businesses. If not that seems a significant omission)
- 2) The fact that counties/communities could apply for grants for distressed areas would not obligate them to do so, correct? Also, the fact that an area may be listed as distressed does not appear to mean that it is an area of substantial minority population - is there a map overlay on that point?
- 3) There appears to be no mention in the "Plan of Action" of targetting persons of color or minority-owned businesses to benefit from these initiatives. In fact, those words do not appear to be mentioned at all in the plan of action - despite undisputed evidence of disproportionate and very high rates of unemployment for African-American and Latino residents. Thus there is no way to ascertain (or assert) that this plan will benefit minority communities in the region. There is clearly a glaring need for a socio-economic impact analysis to evaluate whether and to what extent this plan benefits communities and workers of color.
- 4) This plan asserts there is a "skills gap" - i.e., a workforce problem. However, there are many workers with skills, or willing to obtain skills, who remain unemployed - and many of these are persons of color. These workers need family supporting jobs. Yet there is evidence that this "skills gap" is a myth - from the UWM-Center for Economic Development. See, e.g., <http://www.bizjournals.com/milwaukee/blog/2013/02/uwm-professor-wisconsin-skills-gap-a.html>, http://www4.uwm.edu/ced/publications/skillsgap_2013-2.pdf ("In reality, Wisconsin and Milwaukee suffer from the opposite of a skills gap: an economy that generates too few quality jobs and a labor market that is characterized by the underemployment and overqualification of skilled and educated workers. 25 percent of Milwaukee's retail salespersons hold college degrees (up from 11 percent in 2000); 60 percent of Wisconsin's parking lot attendants have had some post-secondary education. The "job gap" has created a skills mismatch of sorts in the Wisconsin and Milwaukee labor markets, but it is the inverse of the one commonly put forward: it is a mismatch of too many highly educated workers chasing too few "good jobs."")

Karyn Rotker

On Tue, Apr 7, 2015 at 11:09 AM, McKay, Benjamin R. <BMCKAY@sewrpc.org> wrote:

Karyn,

We have forwarded your comment on the CEDS to members of the EJTF along with background information on the CEDS shown below.

Ben McKay

Principal Planner

Southeastern Wisconsin

Regional Planning Commission

[\(262\) 953-3229](tel:(262)953-3229)

bmckay@sewrpc.org

From: McKay, Benjamin R.

Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 11:05 AM

To: Adams, Stephen P.; Adelene Greene (agreene@CO.KENOSHA.WI.US); Allen, Ann Dee; Anderson, Nancy M.; D'Amico, Debra A.; Deborah Moore (damoore@MILWAUKEE.GOV); Ella Dunbar (edunbar@cr-sdc.org); EnvJusticeTaskForce; Evenson, Philip C.; Guadalupe "Wally" Rendon (hbparacine@att.net); Hiebert, Christopher T.; Jackie Schellinger (zipzak@YAHOO.COM); Jedd Lapid (jedlap@yahoo.com); Korb, Gary K.; McKay, Benjamin R.; N. Lynnette McNeely (nlmcneely@YAHOO.COM); Nancy Holmlund (nancyholmlund@SBCGLOBAL.NET); Ness Flores (nessflores@SBCGLOBAL.NET); Ness Flores (phylie@SBCGLOBAL.NET); Payne, Nakeisha N.; Schilling, David A.; Theresa Schuerman (Theresa.Schuerman@DWD.WISCONSIN.GOV); Tyrone Dumas (tpdumas07@att.net); Wallace White (Walla5283@yahoo.com); Willie Wade (wwade@MILWAUKEE.GOV); Yolanda Satos Adams (yadams2013@gmail.com); Yunker, Kenneth R.

Subject: CEDS Public Comment

Dear Environmental Justice Task Force member,

Public comment is being solicited through May 1st on the public review draft of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the Southeastern Wisconsin Region (item No. 6 on today's meeting agenda). The comment shown below received from Ms. Rotker is among the comments that will be considered in preparing the final CEDS. The CEDS is being prepared jointly by the Milwaukee 7 (M7), Southeast Wisconsin Regional Economic Partnership (REP), and SEWRPC. The M7 is the public-private regional economic development organization. The M7 is governed by a 56 member Advisory Council including representatives from many sectors of the Region's economic base, labor, and elected officials and economic development representatives from each of the seven counties and City of Milwaukee. The REP consists of the directors of economic development organizations and staffs from each of the Region's seven counties, and representatives from the City of Milwaukee Department of City Development, the Wisconsin Energy Corporation, and SEWRPC.

Each of the seven County Boards in the Region may consider the final CEDS for approval later this year. Approval would then make that county and its local governments eligible to apply for U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) funding to assist economically distressed areas. These areas, shown on the attached map, are census tracts meeting EDA economic distress criteria based on high unemployment and/or low per capita income levels. Projects proposed for funding must be shown to be located in economically distressed areas or benefit economically distressed areas.

Ben McKay, SEWRPC

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Ms. Rotker's comment follows:

Ben:

I'm not sure I can attend the meeting, but wanted to share a concern about this plan that I would ask be brought to the EJTF (and the advisory committee's) attention. Despite acknowledging in this plan high and disproportionate rates of Black and Latino unemployment (and we know rates are even higher, if you count "joblessness" - such as those who have given up looking for work), this plan does not appear to contain any no targeted solution to deal with those issues or to specifically seek to ensure that these unemployed and underemployed residents have access to benefits of this development - either spatially (by planning for development and redevelopment in and near where communities of color live - which also could provide economic development benefits to those communities as well as employment), or by seeking to ensure the creation of family supporting jobs that persons in poor, hyper-segregated areas of our regions will be able to fill. Of course it is critical that both be considered and addressed, to ensure that African-American and Latino residents receive a fair share of the benefits of this plan.

Karyn

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