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NEWS

Baker-Polito Administration plans Economic Development Summit 2018 for May 1 in Worcester

Baker-Polito Administration to host forum for business leaders, innovators at DCU Center

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Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development

Massachusetts Office of International Trade and Investment

Office of Governor Charlie Baker and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito

Mass Housing Partnership

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WORCESTER, MA – Governor Charlie Baker, Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito, Housing & Economic Development Secretary Jay Ash, and leaders from across the state will gather for an engaging and informative morning on May 1. We will look back on the big accomplishments we've achieved together and look ahead to priorities for continued economic development across the Commonwealth. Leaders will share insight on programs and best practices on infrastructure, small business, housing, community based innovation, workforce, and key industries that are helping to transform our communities and leverage economic opportunities.

The summit will have some light refreshments - coffee, tea and assorted pastries - and will offer several info sessions intended to guide and grow Massachusetts businesses.

Breakout Sessions:

1. Infrastructure

Facilitated by Lauren Liss, President and CEO, MassDevelopment and Emmy Hahn, Department of Housing and Community Development

The best way to prepare communities for success is by providing them with the tools they need to thrive. Through funding for critical public infrastructure projects that leverage private sector investment, economic development and job creation, the Commonwealth has established best practices around community development to coordinate investments that ensure great outcomes. In this session, discussion will focus on programs and best practices the Commonwealth has implemented by prioritizing and investing in development ready sites and downtown assistance to unlock the potential of our cities and towns.

2. Business Development

Facilitated by Carolyn Kirk, Deputy Secretary of Housing and Economic Development and Nam Pham, Assistant Secretary for Business Development and International Trade

The Commonwealth is committed to the growth of businesses by leveraging private investments through public support, creating a business-friendly environment, and connecting business owners to growth opportunities. In this session, discussion will focus on programs and best practices available to mitigate the cost of doing business in Massachusetts, support entrepreneurs, and encourage business expansion.

3. Housing

Facilitated by Clark Ziegler, Executive Director, Massachusetts Housing Partnership and Janelle Chan, Undersecretary, Housing and Community Development

In order for the state and economy to thrive, more housing needs to be produced that citizens can afford and will benefit our cities and towns. In this session, discussion will focus on programs and best practices the Commonwealth has implemented to address the state's housing needs and what more can be done.

4. Community Based Innovation

Facilitated by Jay Ash, Secretary of Housing and Economic Development and Pat Larkin, Deputy Director, MassTech; Director, the Innovation Institute at MassTech

Support of community leadership and community-based stakeholders across the state will position them as places they can grow and participate in the innovation, creative and entrepreneurial ecosystem in Massachusetts. In this session, discussion will focus on programs and best practices the Commonwealth has implemented to develop and support community innovation and entrepreneurship at the local level.

5. Workforce Development

Facilitated by Juan Vega, Assistant Secretary for Communities and Programs; Jennifer James, Undersecretary of Workforce Development; Robert LePage, Assistant Secretary for Career Education

The key to promoting growth and opportunities is to ensure that residents have the skills employers seek and that businesses are not constrained by a shortage of skilled workers. In this session, discussion will focus on programs and best practices the Commonwealth has implemented to connect Massachusetts residents to economic opportunities and help close the skills gap employers' face, by expanding workforce development efforts.

6. Strengthening Key Industries

Facilitated by Travis McCready, President & CEO of the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center and Ira Moskowitz, Director of Advanced Manufacturing Programs at MassTech

Whether in research and development, or advanced manufacturing, success and prosperity of Massachusetts citizens stems from the growth of strong and competitive key industries and clusters. In this session, discussion will focus on programs and best practices the Commonwealth has implemented

to identify and support key industries relative to the life sciences sector, biomanufacturing, and advanced manufacturing.

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