

**DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
Wednesday, November 12, 2021 – 11:00AM
Zoom Teleconference**

Roll taken, Quorum present – Meeting called to order at 11:06 am

Members Present: Gregory Curtis, Carla Major, Christ Ross, Cleveland Spears, Judy Barrasso, William Bradshaw, Jim Cook

Members Absent: Coleman Adler, Damon Burns, Paul Flower, Leo Marsh

Staff/Counsel Present: John Pourciau, Anthony Carter, Sabrina Smith, Devona Dolliole, Joshua Vairin, Scott Whittaker & Brittany Carnes (Legal Counsel)

Winner Partners Team - Tina Winner, Steven Oberhoffer, Marteta Metley

Notice: The time, location, and agenda had been adequately and publicly noticed.

Call for Public Input Cards:

Public Comments: No public comments

Appointment of New President & CEO - John Pourciau recapped the Zoom meetings Davon Barbour took part in with additional stakeholders.

A public email blast was sent out to encourage people to come to a presentation by Mr. Barbour of his vision of downtown followed another request to get additional email and additional comments at the meeting that occurred on November 9. This shows good faith process along the way getting to this point.

Some of the stakeholders that meetings were not setup with originally were with the STEM community, the health sector, the education sector, and some within our technology sector. It was important that they had a chance to weigh in on their take on Mr. Barbour prior to any official vote.

We reached out to Delgado, LSU & Tulane and also to Ochsner, LCMC, and to the Idea Village to get a subset of different folks of the broader STEM community as it is an important part of our growth and success of Downtown.

Wednesday, November 10, 2021 – Davon met with Iomi Dinkler of LCMC and had a productive conversation in relation to the work that LCMC does but also as a tenant of a building with their corporate headquarters being located downtown. There was also good conversation about

Davon's work with the partnership between the city of Baltimore and Johns Hopkins to create their Bio-Medical District. They spoke about what LCMC was looking for and to get downtown and some of the work Davon had done in relation to a broader space overall improvements but to partnerships with health systems.

Thursday, November 11, 2021 – Davon met with the **Dr. Lillian Stibe**, Chancellor of Delgado John Atkinson from Idea Village, Patrick Norton with Tulane, several representatives from LSU Health Science Center including Senator Ed Murray, **Dr. Robert Moppin and Dr. Fernsen**. They discussed the importance of the medical system, the health system and the future and importance of those sectors in relation to the work that can be done here. Many of those conversations go into what Davon has discussed over his time here such as trying to attract workers and not just businesses. How do we do a good job in leveraging workforce opportunities to make sure those that are working downtown are getting good paying jobs that affords them the opportunity to live in the city. How do we leverage opportunities when we bring events in where we have high profile businesses that are here in our front yard that are paying to come, we don't have to pay to go see them? How do we leverage those opportunities to potentially make sure that we are engaging with them and making a good show of downtown and the opportunities here? Other conversations were on the importance of the Brand.

The energy Mr. Barbour has shown throughout the entirety of this process was on display and well received by those that were on that call as it was communicated back to him in relation to feed back.

Chair Curtis feels that bringing together those in the hospitality industry with the other industries and workforce development is really key to the pathway forward as well as dealing with some of the systemic issues that plague our city and our district, which includes the crime and homelessness and noise. He feels that Davon will bring a fresh breath of energy to the district and to the city. He understands that partnerships are vital to his success as well as the success of the Downtown Development District.

John interjected that he wanted to be on the record of minutes that the vote today is reflective of effort that has gotten to this point and that it is not something that just happened. He also thanked Ms. Winner and her team for all the effort put forward.

A motion was requested to approve the appointment of Davon Barbour as the new President & CEO of the Downtown Development District. Moved by Commissioner Major, Supported by Commissioner Bradshaw. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was requested to allow Chair Curtis along with John Pourciau, Interim-President & CEO, and Legal Counsel to negotiate salary and other terms of the contract with Mr. Barbour noting that once terms of the package are agreed upon it will be brought to the Board for review.

Adjournment – Chair Curtis requested a motion to adjourn; moved by Commissioner Major; supported by Commissioner Cook. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:25 am.