

CALL SHEET

PREPARED BY: Jenna Fox

DATE: Thursday, April 9, 2020

TIME: 3:30pm – 4:00pm

SUBJECT: Call with Mayor Kirkland

CALL WILL BE CONNECTED BY: Call 267-332-8737
Enter PIN 882386419#
Enter Host code 40695#

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION:

Staff:

Secretary Davin
Kim Bracey

Attendees:

Mayor Thaddeus Kirkland, City of Chester

PURPOSE/OUTCOMES:

PURPOSE: DCED requested this call to discuss a declaration of a fiscal emergency for the City of Chester.

AGENDA/TALKING POINTS:

- **Introduction and general overview – Governor Wolf**
 - Thanking Mayor Kirkland for leadership in Chester's economic development

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

BACKGROUND:

Please see the attached documents which include a memo from DCED and pension update.



Honorable Mayor Thaddeus Kirkland is a remarkable community activist who first burst into the public arena in the fight for improved education for the students in the City of Chester. In spite of adversaries, Kirkland continues the fight for educational fairness and equality within the Chester-Upland School District — a fight that he is committed to winning. He is not only a well-loved and vocal leader in his home city, but he is also respected and admired across Delaware County.

Elected in his first attempt for public office in 1992, Kirkland was charged with the task of representing the 159th Legislative District, which includes the communities of the City of Chester, Chester Township, Lower Chichester Township, portions of Ridley and Upper Chichester townships, Eddystone, Marcus Hook, Trainer, Upland and Parkside.

Kirkland is the pastor of Community Baptist Church. Prior to his election to the General Assembly, Kirkland was a community service coordinator

at Crozer Chester Medical Center, where he conducted outreach and educational programs for teenagers.

Kirkland has been a strong advocate for the elderly and has fought to ensure equal rights for both the visually impaired and the physically challenged. He is the prime sponsor of legislation relating to prayer in schools, Braille, video surveillance, absentee ballot, technical training and Head Start.

A 1973 graduate of Chester High School, Kirkland holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications from Cheyney University. He also attended classes at Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has been supported in his endeavors by his family, which includes his wife Susie and their five daughters.

Kirkland, who has been described as tireless, concerned and action-oriented, is involved in numerous community organizations and activities. He currently serves as Democratic chairman of the House Tourism and Recreational Development Committee. Within the House of Representatives, he is a member of the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus and the Democratic Policy Committee. Additionally, Kirkland is Vice President of West End Ministerial Fellowship of Chester and Vicinity, former Vice-Chairman of the National Black Caucus of State Legislatures, a former Board of Trustee member of Lincoln University and a graduate of the Widener University Leadership Academy. He is also a member of Wine Psi Fraternity, Incorporated and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated.

Kirkland's community activities are numerous. He has received multiple awards for his leadership, community service and dedication from the following organizations: West End Ministerium Inc.; the Chester Chapter of the National Political Congress of Black Women; New Life Ministries; the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Cultural, Educational, and Employment Committee of Crozer Chester Medical Center; the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. Epsilon Pi Chapter; the Mount Pleasant Drug

Ministry; the Chester Chapter Cheyney University Alumni Association; Franklin Lodge #158; the Delaware County Senior Center Network; the Chester Branch of the NAACP; Project Prepare of Widener University; the Ranges Temple Usher Board; the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women; and the Blind Sight Center of Chester.



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Dear Mayor Kirkland:

I am in receipt of your letter and the request made to allow city employees benefits, including medical and dental, for an additional month subsequently ending June 30th. As stated in the Emergency Action Plan the City of Chester is facing a serious and immediate fiscal crisis exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and collapse of economic activity.

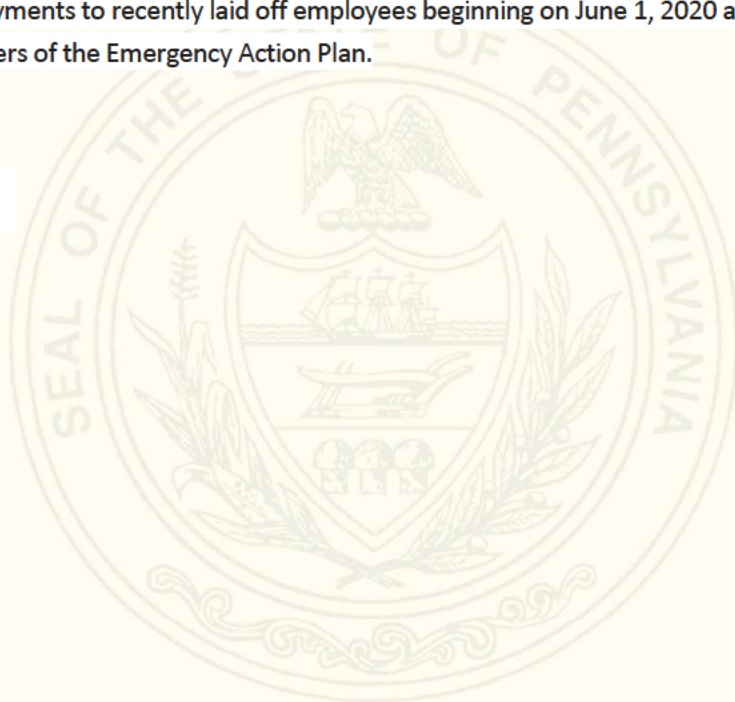
While it is difficult to project the revenue implications of the current economic and health crisis, we do know the negative effect will be severe for the City of Chester. We also recognize the need to make fiscally sound decisions now that will ensure vital and necessary services are maintained within the City during this fiscal emergency.

As we work towards implementation of the Emergency Action Plan and full Receivership to assist the City with operating cash shortfalls, and shoring up the pension accounts, your request is denied. The City shall cease all benefit payments to recently laid off employees beginning on June 1, 2020 and continue to work within the parameters of the Emergency Action Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis M. Davin".

Dennis M. Davin
Secretary



Thaddeus Kirkland
Mayor



(610) 447-7723 (P)
(610) 447-7735 (F)

Secretary Dennis M. Davin
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street, 4th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0225

April 30, 2020

Dear Secretary Davin:

As mayor of the city of Chester, I am writing this letter with the full support of the rest of Chester City Council. On April 13, 2020, Gov. Tom Wolf officially declared a Fiscal Emergency for Chester. With this declaration, an emergency action plan was asked to be prepared by the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). This financial emergency was triggered by the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic that is currently affecting this country and the world.

As part of the emergency action plan, medical and dental benefits for city of Chester employees who were temporarily laid-off as a result of the financial constraints exasperated by COVID-19 are scheduled to be terminated on May 31, 2020.

Secretary Davin, many of the 125 employees who have been laid-off have applied for, but have yet to receive unemployment compensation. The delay in unemployment benefits makes this situation even more unbearable for them.

Therefore, I am requesting that DCED strongly consider a one-month extension of their medical and dental benefits. This will afford these persons the opportunity and time to seek and secure alternative medical assistance.

Thank you for your time and consideration concerning this matter.

Sincerely,

Hon. Mayor Thaddeus Kirkland



DCED

GOVERNOR'S
OFFICE
2020 SEP -9 AM 11:50
CORRESPONDENCE

Friday, August 28, 2020

The Honorable Tom Wolf
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
508 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Subject: RACP Grant Application – Support Letter for A World So Special, Inc.,
Ref: DCED – RACP Web Application Id: 8479554.

Dear Honorable Governor Tom Wolf:

I am writing to express support of A World So Special, Inc., (AWSS, Inc.) RACP Application referenced above.

AWSS, Inc., has applied for \$1,800,000 RACP grant as part of its \$4,185,000 capital funds to develop a vacant 2.06 acre waterfront property as a high-impact economic development project located in one of Chester City Opportunity Zone area and adjacent to the Subaru Park (formerly Philadelphia Union Soccer Stadium). The project “Shovel Ready” with site control in place and proposed plans can be developed by right within current zoning without any delays.

Planned Program/Use as catalyst for economic development: The development is for a flex space – offering a mix of retail, offices, and light commercial space. It includes, an owner operated event space and commissary – a commercial kitchen – and virtual restaurant that will be open to the public. The proposed plan is expected to create 40 new full-time jobs and generate tax revenues for the city, county and state authorities. On an induced basis, the economic impact would be 240 jobs in the primary and secondary markets around the site.

This “shovel ready” project will directly contribute to the economic vitality of the area. The development will complement and can draw from the sites adjacent neighbors including the Larimer Brewery and the Subaru Park (formerly the Philadelphia Union Soccer Stadium), a facility that enjoys seasonal use for soccer as well as other local high school and college athletic teams and concerts. The business plan, *SeaPort Commissary and Event Center*, has been reviewed, and approved for funding by the Temple University SBDC (Small Business Development Center).

Knowing that the City of Chester is grappling with how to turn back years of economic disinvestment, lack of growth and challenging opportunities in neighborhoods that have for years remained largely moribund; my office believe that this is the type of “shovel ready” initiative

That is worthy of support and encouragement. I hope that your admirable office will give due consideration to the project and grant the additional funding needed to make it happen.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to call me. I can be reached at [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Thaddeus Kirkland', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Thaddeus Kirkland, Mayor
City of Chester

cc: Dennis M. Davin, Secretary, DCED
Jen Sails, Secretary of the Budget, Commonwealth of PA
Ola O. Solanke, President, A World So Special, Inc.



City Hall • 1 Fourth Street
Chester, Pennsylvania 19013-4400

Dennis M. Davin, Secretary
Department of Community of Economic
Development
Commonwealth of PA
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Hasler

09/02/2020

US POSTAGE

FIRST-CLASS MAIL

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