



# City-County Summit



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

The Economic Development Working Group, created as a result of the City-County Summit, makes the following recommendations for shared services, coordination, cooperation, and consolidation in the area of Economic Development. These recommendations serve as a springboard for continued discussions between the County Department of Economic Development and the City's Urban Redevelopment Authority:

- **Fringe Community Development:** Jointly plan and develop projects involving the approximate 20 suburban communities which border the City of Pittsburgh. Precedent for this activity has been set with the former East Hills Shopping Center where the Department of Economic Development (DOED), Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA), Penn Hills, and Wilksburg have worked jointly to promote the redevelopment of the site.
- **Utilize the Urban Redevelopment Authority's Real Estate Loan Review Committee:** We propose the Committee review our housing development projects like the Business Loan Review Committee reviews our business loans. This would provide consistency to our development process.
- **Business Outreach Efforts:** This effort focuses on joint strategy development and company visits within the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development's Business and Retention Program parameters.
- **Consistent Program Procedures and Guidelines:** This effort will result in a uniform approach that should reduce confusion among potential applicants and strengthen the housing and business finance programs offered by each agency.
- **Joint Technical Assistance:** This effort would involve the exchange of information and/or services for the benefit of a specific project. For example, DOED subscribes to a real estate site search service which we can use to provide information to the URA.
- **M/W/DBE Participation:** An overall mission statement should be adopted, agreeable to the City and County, on economic development opportunities for minority and women-owned businesses. Once in place, policies should be developed that supports the encouragement of minority and women-owned businesses, identifying individual goals to achieving full participation on all economic development projects.

### **Economic Development Working Group**

The Economic Development Working Group was chaired by County Council Member William Russell Robinson. The group first convened on Friday, March 12, 2004 and reconvened on Friday, March 19, 2004. Working group members include Urban Redevelopment Authority Director Mulugetta Birru,

Councilwoman Twanda Carlisle, Senator Jay Costa, Economic Development Director Dennis Davin, Representative Frank Dermody, Economic Development Deputy Director Jack Exler, Council Member Dave Fawcett, Representative Dan Frankel, Representative Dave Levdansky, Councilman Bill Peduto, Senator John Pippy, Representative Harry Readshaw, and Councilman Sala Udin.

Chairman Robinson also invited the participation of the Allegheny Conference and its subsidiaries, the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce and the PA Economy League, represented by Shawn Good, Jeff Rossi, and Mike Weir as well as the African-American Chamber of Commerce, represented by Doris Carson-Williams.

The working group discussed and agreed to put forth the recommendations as a starting point for talks about sharing or consolidation of services between the City and County relating to Economic Development. Each recommendation serves as a springboard for continued discussions between the County Department of Economic Development and the City's Urban Redevelopment Authority. The Directors of both are committed to continuing discussions to identify further areas of cooperation and coordination.

### **Background**

As a part of the state legislature's response to the ongoing fiscal problems being confronted by the City of Pittsburgh, Senators Jane Clare Orie and Jack Wagner approached members of Allegheny County Council and Pittsburgh City Council about convening a meeting where policy makers would have opportunity to talk about possible cooperation between the two entities. On February 12, 2004, representatives and members of the Governor's Office, State Senate, State House of Representatives, Allegheny County Council, Allegheny County Chief Executive, and Pittsburgh City Council attended an initial meeting at the Allegheny County Courthouse.

At the February 12<sup>th</sup> City-County Summit, participants discussed various opportunities for shared services, consolidation, and cooperation. As part of that discussion, it was determined that working groups would begin convening to address each of these opportunities in more detail. The participants set a 40-45 day window for each of those groups to report back to the full group with specific recommendations that could be presented to the Oversight Board.

Eight working groups were established: Economic Development, Facilities, Information Technology, Parks, Public Safety, Public Works, Purchasing, and Tax Collection. Four of the groups were chaired by a member of County Council; four were chaired by a member of City Council. Each group had representation from the General Assembly, the County's Legislative and Executive branches, and the City's Legislative and Executive branches and began meeting shortly after the Summit.

Each Chair was charged with completing its task and submitting a report to the organizers of the Summit by Friday, March 26, 2004. The City-County Summit would reconvene on Thursday, April 1, 2004 to allow each Chair an opportunity to present a summary of the working group's recommendations to the full body. These recommendations will then be presented to the Oversight Board, with copies to Chief Executive Dan Onorato and Mayor Tom Murphy.