

Rhode Island Economic Policy Council

Meeting of Council Members

Public Session

September 10, 2008

The Rhode Island Economic Policy Council met on Wednesday, September 10, 2008 in Public Session, at 10:00 a.m., at the offices of the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation, located at 315 Iron Horse Way, Suite 101, Providence, Rhode Island.

The following council members were present and participated throughout the meeting as indicated: Governor Donald L. Carcieri, Robert Carothers, Paul Cronin, Kimball Hall, William Hatfield, Saul Kaplan, John Partridge, Michael Ryan, Gary Sasse, Robert Valentini, Michael DiBiase, Tim Hebert, Elizabeth Huidekoper, Ronald Machtley, George Nee, and Laurie White.

Council Members Absent: Senate President Joseph Montalbano, Representative Gordon Fox, Mayor David Cicilline, Charles Bush, Joseph MarcAurele, David Rickard, Shivan Subramaniam, George Vecchione, John Hazen White, Jr., Raymond DiPasquale, Steven Sepe.

Governor Donald L. Carcieri presided over the meeting.

1. Call to Order
Governor Carcieri called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
2. The Governor discussed the current economic conditions within the state.
3. Saul Kaplan provided an update on several EDC initiatives aimed at improving economic conditions and cited several success stories including the I-195 redevelopment, several new companies expanding and or relocating to Rhode Island and a renewable energy initiative.
4. Peter McWalters, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, presented: "K-12 Systems Improvements: An Economic Imperative;" which informed the council on education reform measures and student testing results.
5. Gary Sasse, Director of the Department of Revenue, provided a report entitled "Achieving Tax Competitiveness: A Report on the Tax Policy Strategy Workgroup" which informed the group of current tax rates and potential changes that the Tax Policy Council was reviewing.
6. The Governor suggested for the next meeting a review of the states transportation infrastructure program and an overview of the current budget process.

There being no further business in Public Session, the meeting was adjourned.