

# Rhode Island Economic Policy Council

## Meeting of Council Members

### Public Session

May 12, 2009

The Rhode Island Economic Policy Council met on Wednesday, May 12, 2009 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 Choquette, Paul Cronin, Kimball Hall, Tim Hebert, Joe MarcAurele, George Nee, John Partridge, Dave Rickard, Gary Sasse, J. Michael Saul, Gary Sasse, Steven Sepe and Robert Valentini.

Council Members Absent: Mayor David Cicilline, Charles Bush, Michael DiBiase, Ray DiPasquale, William Hatfield, Elizabeth Huidekoper, Gordon Fox, Ronald Machtley, Mike Ryan, Shivan Subramaniam, George Vecchione, Laurie White and John Hazen White, Jr.

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 agenda and the importance of each opportunity to be presented in terms of their benefit to the state's economy.
3. Jamia McDonald, Director – Office of Economic Recovery and Reinvestment, reviewed the anticipated levels of Federal Stimulus funding available to Rhode Island, the purpose of the ERR Act and the state's main objectives in obtaining and managing the funds once completely available. The OERR website was introduced; the OERR team and office structure was explained.
4. Thomas Mann, Executive Director of the Pawtucket Foundation, presented the public/private partnership that conceived of and is responsible for implementing the design and execution for the new Pawtucket River Bridge. The project will use a \$2M grant to fund the project which will yield multiple benefits including: increased tourism, mix use commercial space, a new rail line stop and enhanced access to public pedestrian space.
5. John Rhodes, Senior Principal of Moran, Stahl and Boyer, LLC presented plans to conduct a state wide site assessment survey in conjunction with the RIEDC. The assessment will incorporate economic development goals for the state in conjunction with input from multiple key state entities including hospitals, universities, large and small businesses.
6. Governor Carcieri reviewed the four major recommendations incorporated in the RIEDC Review Panel report. The recommendations included: board of director changes, a national search for an EDC director, alignment of economic development strategies tactics and further engagement of the business community.

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