

Westchester County Board of Legislators

COMMITTEE OF GENERATIONAL, CULTURAL & ETHNIC DIVERSITY

Minutes: September 25, 2007

COMMITTEE ON GCED

MEMBERS: **Chair:** Bernice Spreckman; **Legislators:** Lois Bronz, William Burton, Ken Jenkins, Vito Pinto and Clinton Young

ATTENDANCE: **STAFF:** RVinci, AEttere, NREntz, DWalker, RPezzullo. **CEO:** Marlene Furtick, Tracey Mitchell.
Youth Bureau Directors Attending: Jim Bostic–Nepperhan Community Center, Camille Banks-Lee–Mt. Vernon, Frank Williams–White Plains, Kelly Johnson–New Rochelle, Valerie Swan– Peekskill. **Chamber of Commerce Directors Attending:** Denise Lally – Executive Director – New Rochelle, Kevin Cacace – President – Yonkers, Gerri Post – President – Mt. Vernon. **OTHER:** Lucille Ruth, Director of the Community Planners Council of Yonkers.

Meeting called to order at 10:20 pm.

Representatives from various Chamber of Commerce offices met to discuss ways of increasing job opportunities available to Westchester County's youth population in hopes of decreasing gang/youth violence.

Marlene Furtick spoke about the CE's newly formed committee which is looking into the lack of employment opportunities.

Gerri Post tells how her organization has been working on programs involving job mentoring, readiness skills and job fairs. They are also interested in helping "older" young people with business opportunities.

Jim Bostic spoke about the need for young adult men, typically the gang leader, to be able to get decent paying jobs but because of past prison records they don't get hired. Also, the loss of after-school programs due to funding is a real problem in all communities.

Valerie Swan would like more information about those young people being released back into the community after jail to be able to provide them with help during the transition period.

Denise Lally speaks about various programs going on in New Rochelle to help with job opportunities. She suggests that large developers/companies coming into a community be asked to provide jobs to the local youth community.

Minutes passed: 9/18/07. Motion made by Legislator Pinto and seconded by Legislator Burton.

-AUDIO MINUTES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST-