

Howard County BRAC Task Force (HC-BRAC-TF)

Task Force Memorandum: 2008-08

For: Howard County BRAC Constituency
Subject: Update on Fort Meade Growth Impacts and Opportunities
Date: 23 June 2008
Originator: Kent Menser, Executive Director of the HC BRAC Office

PURPOSE: The purpose of this memorandum is to update our Fort Meade Growth/BRAC constituency on the latest actions, events and schedules related to this important effort. First, thanks to all Task Force members for your great work during Phase III. It was very professional and productive and it has brought state-wide recognition to you and your committee! Finally, we encourage everyone to review all we do with a critical eye. We want to improve our effectiveness, and your criticisms, insights and/or ideas will help us achieve our goal. The following subjects are addressed in this memo:

- Task Force Leadership
- Task Force Schedule
- Task Force Phase III Performance
- Perspective on Phase IV
- Task Force Adjustments
- Small and Minority Business Initiative
- Fort Meade Regional Growth Management Committee (RGMC)

TASK FORCE LEADERSHIP:

HC BRAC TF Committees	Co-Chair	Co-Chair
Work Force Housing	Paul Revelle	Stacey Spann
Public Safety	Joseph Herr	William McMahon
Education	Bob Price	Roger Plunkett
Transportation	Ron Meliker	Carl Balser
Infrastructure	Wayne Wilhelm	Steve Gerwin
Health and Human Services	Vidia Dhanraj	Lois Mikkila
Workforce Development	Francine Trout	Patty Keeton
Family Support	Rosi Melendez	Diane Pelesh
Lessons Learned	Dwight Hollenbach	David Faigenbaum
Plans and Analysis Team	Jean Friedberg	
Resource Partners	Theo Bell	
Executive	Sam Seymour	

SCHEDULE:

- Next HC BRAC Task Force Meeting:
 - Date: 11 September 2008
 - Time: 3:30PM to 5:00 PM
 - Meeting Location (Same for all meetings):
Howard County Gateway Office Building
6751 Columbia Gateway Drive (First Floor)
Columbia, Maryland. Time: 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM
- Fort Meade Regional Growth Management Committee (RGMC) Meeting:
 - Date: 25 September 2008
 - Time: 2 PM to 3:30 PM
 - Meeting Location: Eastern Shore, exact location to be determined

DISCUSSION:

- **Phase III Performance:**

- The primary objective of our Phase III work was to execute a comparative analysis between HC BRAC TF work and the Maryland State BRAC Action Plan (report sent out in previous message). On 11 June 2008, the BRAC Task Force briefed Phase III findings and recommendations to the County Executive, Mr. Ken Ulman. He congratulated the 14 Committee Co-chairs and their respective committees for their “great work.” The following is a list of the committees, their co-chairs and two of our support team, all of whom contributed to these great results:

Work Force Housing	Paul Revelle	Stacey Spann
Public Safety	Joseph Herr	William McMahon
Education	Bob Price	Roger Plunkett
Transportation	Ron Meliker	Carl Balser
Infrastructure	Wayne Wilhelm	Steve Gerwin
Health and Human Services	Vidia Dhanraj	Lois Mikkila
Workforce Development	Francine Trout	Patty Keeton
Support Team	Raj Kudchadkar	Jean Friedberg

- **Task Force Background and Phase IV:**

- Three themes have influenced our Task Force work from day one:
 - § Identify the impacts and opportunities that BRAC will bring to Howard County
 - § Produce relevant, actionable information for our customers
 - § Sustain or improve our quality of life during this process by tapping into the energy that the BRAC action generates. This is our Olympics!
- These three themes provided the basis for the three Task Force Phases that we have completed:
 - § Phase I, Discovery: We identified seven key functional areas that would be most influenced by BRAC growth
 - § Phase II, Analysis: We determined what effects this growth would have on Howard County and developed these interim findings:
 - HC General Plan (land use) adequate to absorb BRAC growth
 - Current needs in Social Services and Affordable Housing will be exacerbated by the growth
 - Regional forces in the areas of Transportation, Work Force Development and Disaster Management will continue to impinge upon our quality of life, if not effectively addressed.
 - § Phase III, Assessment: We conducted a comparative analysis between the State BRAC Action Plan and our own Howard County work and this analysis produced the following results and more.
 - Required our Task Force to review and update Phase II work.
 - Identified critical actions not addressed by either plan
 - Gave the Task Force an initial look on how functional areas can affect each other. Best example is the dynamic relationship between Affordable Housing, Work Force Development and Transportation.
- Phase IV, Silo Crunching:

- § Earlier, I discussed the theme of getting relevant and actionable information to our customers. Our primary customer focus during Phase IV will be on the decision-makers who are ultimately responsible for directing actions that will sustain or improve our quality of life.
 - § Decision-makers require relevant, fact-based information and well grounded assumptions in order to make effective decisions. This is what we have been working toward in our Task Force for the past 18 months. But, for the most part, we have been doing it one functional silo at a time, when the reality is that our decision-makers are working in a multifunctional environment in which strong forces are not contained in neat well defined silos. During phase IV, we will approach our analysis from this holistic view. More to come!
 - Phase IV Preparations:
 - § As we adjust our Task Force approach to Phase IV, we will also make minor adjustments to our Task Force organization. These actions will be completed before our September meeting.
 - § Before laying out Phase IV objectives and strategies, I will be meeting with the Task Force Executive Committee and the Co-chairs at a half-day “off-site” in July. Additional information on this action will be out next week.
 - § More importantly, I will be meeting individually with each member of the Task Force during July and August. The purpose of these meetings will be to receive your feedback/recommendations on the future direction of the Task Force and discuss the role you would like to assume. I have set aside Tuesday mornings, Wednesday Evenings and Thursday afternoons, starting the second week in July, for these meetings. **I am asking each HC BRAC TF member to please give Jill Joubert a call at 410-313-6522 NLT 30 July to schedule our meeting. If we have not heard from you by 30 July, we will worry!**
- **Small and Minority Business Action:**
 - Over a month ago, I informed you of an action instituted by Congressman Cummings and County Executive Ulman to provide additional assistance to small and minority businesses trying to take advantage of BRAC generated opportunities. At that time, we decided to perform a mini-SWOT analysis to make sure we understood the challenges, the environment and all ongoing efforts. We have just about completed the SWOT and I will have definitive word on our next steps by 15 July. Not surprisingly, we have found the environment complex and some programs more effective than others. I know this sounds “waffley,” but stick with me!
- **Fort Meade Regional Growth Management Committee (RGMC):**
 - This committee is alive and well and currently has eight member counties and two member cities. We are in the process of forming a regional transportation committee and a committee/group focused on Regional Emergency Planning issues. Our challenge is that there currently is no regional level organization that is responsible and accountable for comprehensive planning in and adjacent to the Fort Meade Region. The RGMC intends to pick up the gauntlet. More information to follow on this important action, to include process for selection of committee members.
- **Call me if you have better information or ideas** than contained in this memo or any of our work! kmenser@howardcountymd.gov or 410-313-6521 Thanks, Kent