

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 2, 2020

Contact: Kevin Clinton

Phone: (202) 352-5513

Email: KClinton@federalcitycouncil.org

EQUITY. RESILIENCE. INNOVATION.

BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND CITY LEADERS ARE JOINING IN A DISTRICT STRONG ECONOMIC RECOVERY MINI-CONFERENCE

Washington, DC – Tomorrow the Federal City Council, Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (DMED) and the D.C. Policy Center are cohosting a Mini-Conference to build a shared understanding of the city's readiness for a return to work and an equitable economic recovery. With vaccines available soon, now is the time to explore the foundations for a strong and equitable recovery in the year ahead.

The event is being sponsored by PNC Bank, Capital One, United Bank, Washington Gas and Boston Properties.

The Mini-Conference is being organized along the themes of equity, resilience and innovation. It will explore the foundations for the recovery: health, transportation, education, childcare and downtown.

Topics -will include the availability and timing of a vaccine and rapid testing, transportation safety and access, the availability of childcare and plans for in-person K-12 instruction, and how office building owners and commercial centers are positioning themselves to safely serve more workers. Also examined will be changes afoot in key sectors such as universities, the federal government, real estate and hospitality.

Speakers include Mayor Muriel Bowser, Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton, Deputy Mayor for Economic Development John Falcicchio, DC Health Director Dr. LaQuandra Nesbitt, Chancellor Dr. Lewis Ferebee and Chairman of the WMATA Board Paul Smedberg. Moderating discussions will be Director of the DC Office and Planning Andrew Trueblood and *The Washington Post's* Robert McCartney.

The event is open to the public, and many of the city's leading policymakers and thinkers are participating.

"Despite facing unprecedented challenges, businesses have stepped up to make extraordinary sacrifices to protect the health and safety of our residents," said Mayor Bowser. "We are focused, right now, on creating relief programs that help our community get to the other side of this. Even when we have a vaccine, this response and recovery will be ongoing and we know it's going to take a District-wide, all-sectors effort to ensure a full and equitable recovery."

"We will recovery more quickly and with greater resilience, if we get the foundations right, starting with health, transportation, education, childcare and downtown," said Tony Williams, CEO and Executive Director of the Federal City Council. "D.C. needs a strong economy so we can afford quality government services, infrastructure investment and a social safety net."

The Mini-Conference is possible because of pro bono research on how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected various sectors of DC's economy and prospects for achieving an equitable recovery. The research was conducted for the Federal City Council by six consulting firms, KPMG, McKinsey, Accenture, EY, JLL and Deloitte, and one think tank, the D.C. Policy Center.

The research teams analyzed cross-cutting themes, including baseline conditions, COVID-19 impacts, key sector challenges and the intermediate and long-term outlooks for each sector.

According to Yesim Sayin Taylor, Executive Director of the DC Policy Center, "recovery in some sectors of our economy means building back what we have lost. But it's also an opportunity to innovate and grow in new ways. A good place to start is loosening barriers to business and job creation to help both residents and small businesses."

Much of the District's business community will be tuning in. Official partners for the event include:

Apartment and Office Building Association (AOBA), Coalition For Non Profit Housing and Economic Development (CNHED), Connected DMV, Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area, DC BID Council, DC Main Streets Program, Destination DC, District of Columbia Building Association (DCBIA), District of Columbia Chamber of Commerce (DCCoC), DMV Food Truck Association, Economic Club of Washington, Events DC, Greater Washington Black Chamber of Commerce, Greater Washington Board of Trade, Greater Washington Community Foundation, Greater Washington Partnership, Restaurant Association of Metropolitan Washington (RAMW), Think Local First, Urban Land Institute of Washington and Washington DC Economic Partnership (WDCEP).

To learn more about the event, please visit districtstrong.org.