



MEMORANDUM

Date: October 25, 2022

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: Jan Leshner 
County Administrator

Re: **Regional Prosperity Task Force Item Continued from Board of Supervisors September 20, 2022 Meeting – Updated Recommendations**

Background

On September 20, 2022, the Board was scheduled to consider recommendations to form a Regional Prosperity Task Force to address poverty, improve opportunity and create community wealth. The [memorandum](#) included the following four recommendations:

1. The Board of Supervisors approve the formation of a Regional Prosperity Task Force as detailed in this memorandum,
2. The Chair of the Board and County Administrator make appointments to the Task Force as soon as possible,
3. The County Administrator, in coordination with the Tucson City Manager, solicit appointments to the Task Force by cities, towns, tribes, PAG and the State for ratification by the Board and Tucson Mayor and Council, and
4. County staff be directed to begin working with City of Tucson staff, experts and practitioners to research and develop policy options, and prepare for initiation of the Task Force.

Shortly after transmitting the memorandum to the Board, I heard concerns from the City of Tucson's Vice Mayor Santa Cruz about our recommendations. It was the Vice Mayor that originally proposed the task force and it was apparent that her request was not fully understood when the item was originally discussed by the Board. We now understand that her intent was more in line with Recommendation No. 4 only, which does not require a formally appointed task force at this time. Subsequent meetings with the Vice Mayor and Mayor's staff led to the development of the attached chart showing the proposed steps and timeline for policy research and development.

Recommendation

With this in mind, I respectfully recommend the Board support Recommendation No. 4 only, with the following changes, including deferral of a formally appointed task force:

County staff be directed to being working with City of Tucson staff, experts, practitioners, and those with lived experience, to research and develop policy options

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for Board and Mayor and Council consideration, with interim recommendations provided by March 2023, and final recommendations by June 2023. Practitioners will include community non-profit service providers. Staff from other municipalities will also be invited to participate.

If approved, regular updates would be provided to the Board, along with opportunities for Board offices to provide input on stakeholders to include in the process.

JKL/anc

Attachment

c: Michael Ortega, City of Tucson Manager
Francisco Garcia, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer
Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator
Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator
Dan Sullivan, Director, Community and Workforce Development
Andrew Flagg, Deputy Director, Community and Workforce Development
Bonnie Bazata, Ending Poverty Now Program Manager
Nicole Fyffe, Senior Advisor, County Administrator's Office

Phase 1 Policy Development	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct
Identify core city/county staff working group												
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin meeting regularly to inform the policy research/provide direction to researchers 	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	break			
Outreach to staff from other municipalities and Tribal Nations												
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request staff participation in working group 	✓	✓	✓									
National literature search for anti-poverty policies that are effective at the local government scale												
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage UA researchers with deliverable due by end of January 	✓	✓	✓									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Researchers meet with City/County staff for input 	✓	✓	✓									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliverable is an initial list of 10 -15 policies with related citations, etc. (i.e. fill out the policy template for each). 			✓									
Engage stakeholders with listening sessions												
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop stakeholder list with Board/M&C input (including community non-profits/service providers with expertise in addressing poverty and those with lived experience) 	✓	✓										
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refine initial list of policies via meetings/listening sessions with stakeholders 			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Analysis of the Opportunity Atlas https://www.opportunityatlas.org/ for Pima County/Tucson region												
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract with researcher to develop detailed report 	✓											
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the findings from the opportunity atlas report and use it to further refine list of policies 			✓	✓								
Take policies to Board and M&C for Adoption (interim list March, final list June)												
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop scope and RFP 	✓	✓										
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issue RFP 			✓									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and award contract 					✓							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final report from contractor due Aug/September 											✓	
Understanding Poverty workshops	Ongoing and as needed											
Speakers and discussions												
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bring speakers to area for presentations and workshops 				✓			✓					✓