



TOWN OF ARLINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING and
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

TOWN HALL, 730 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
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MEMORANDUM

To: Adam Chapdelaine, Town Manager

From: Jennifer Raitt, Director of Planning and Community Development

cc: Ali Carter, Economic Development Coordinator

Date: April 30, 2020

RE: Creation of Arlington Economic Development Recovery Task Force

I am writing to recommend the creation of an Arlington Economic Development Recovery Task Force. This coordinated effort would have the goal of supporting Arlington's business community as we look toward reopening in the community and through an economic recovery.

Following a "State of the Town" meeting hosted by the Arlington Chamber of Commerce on April 27th, many business owners and representatives from larger arts and culture institutions expressed concerns and asked many questions about the process of reopening and the town's long-term recovery. As you may know, Department staff are currently part of a number of regional efforts aimed at developing a regional recovery and response. For example, Arlington is participating in the Metropolitan Area Planning Council's (MAPC) Small Business COVID-19 Project Team and also collaborating with MAPC, Medford, Salem, and the Newton-Needham Chamber of Commerce to help craft a coordinated regional response and technical assistance plan for small businesses in the region.

The type of task force we are recommending is modeled after one launched in Salem. The Task Force would support the local business community as it works to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing economic challenges. The group would meet regularly to determine short- and long-term needs for the business community and also aid in revitalization efforts. The Task Force will provide regular updates to the Select Board and business community regarding available opportunities, assistance, and best practices.

We believe that this type of Task Force can provide critical support for small businesses and arts and cultural institutions that are struggling to survive and will continue to require support during the economic recovery that will take place in the months ahead. We also believe that this is the best way for Arlington to keep our local business community in the forefront, engaged, and informed. We hope that the Select Board will support this effort and provide input into the development of these short-and long-term solutions to ensure a full recovery and that the Town's programs and policies will best meet the community's needs.

We recommend that the group includes the following people who represent Arlington’s business and nonprofit community:

Bob Bowes, Bowes Realty
Cristin Canterbury-Bagnall, Arlington Commission on Arts and Culture
Michelle Casey, Marchelle Salone
Alyssa Clossey, Support Arlington Center
Derek Curran, Arlington Boys and Girls Club
Tom Formicola, Arlington Center for the Arts
Richard Fraiman, Capitol Theatre
Tim Haley, Ellenhorn
Erik Kondo, Broadway Athletics
Heather Leavell, Dallin Museum
Beth Locke, Arlington Chamber of Commerce
Julia Kew Mirak, Mirak Properties
William “Bootsy” Mullan, Town Tavern
Janet O’Riordan, Old Schwamb Mill
Emily Shea, Kickstand Café
Sushil Tuli, CEO Leader Bank
Jan Whitted, ArtBeat
Rachel Zsembery, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, Redevelopment Board member
Representatives from the Select Board, Office of the Town Manager, Arlington Recreation, Department of Health and Human Services, and Department of Planning and Community Development