



Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

JB Pritzker, Governor

Local Journalism Task Force Meeting Minutes March 27, 2023

Event/Meeting: Local Journalism Task Force Meeting

Date/Time: March 27, 2023, at 1:30 p.m.

Location: Teleconference via Webex

Members Present: Jordan Abudayyeh, Jesús Del Toro, Jenna Dooley, Randy Eccles, Sam Fisher, Prof. Tim Franklin, Prof. Dong “HD” Han, Mark Jacob, Josh McGhee, Tim Myers, Prof. Jason Piscia, Adam Rhodes, Sen. Steve Stadelman, Rep. Dave Vella, Christopher Willadsen, Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe

Appointed Members Absent: Sen. Donald DeWitte, Dr. Nikki Usher

Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) Staff Present: Emily Bolton, Aaron Gold-Stein, Jeannette Thom

Call to Order: Meeting began at approximately 1:33 p.m. with brief overview.

Roll Call: 16 members were present; quorum was met.

Introductory Remarks: Aaron Gold-Stein provided brief overview of the agenda and aims of the task force. Initiated member introductions.

Introduction of Members: Members provided brief introductions, including their names, places of employment and the expertise or interest they brought to the Task Force.

Ethics/OMA/Training Requirements: Jeannette Thom provided an overview of questions pertaining to trainings and OMA requirements as part of the Task Force. A meeting is a gathering of a majority of a quorum of a public body held to discuss public business. A quorum for this committee is 12 members and therefore any time there is a gathering of 7 or more members (including email) OMA procedures must be followed. No questions were asked.

Adoption of Bylaws: Aaron Gold-Stein gave an overview of the proposed bylaws for consideration. The proposed bylaws were adopted by a roll call vote of 16 to 0.

Chairperson Selection:

- Representative Dave Vella nominated Senator Stadelman to serve as Chair
- Senator Stadelman was elected Chair via voice vote (zero objections)

Discussion of Member Survey:

Chairman Stadelman went through a summary of submissions from the member survey, broken up by the following themes:

- Policy ideas
- Positive examples of success stories
- Positive examples from cities or states
- Stakeholders to engage

As part of that discussion, members of the Task Force offered up expertise and ideas regarding areas of focus, including:

- Resources and research to quantify local journalism accessibility/journalism deserts
- Important role of bilingual/ethnic media
- Support from the philanthropic community
- Non-profit newsroom models
- Newsroom staffing, talent diversity and building the pipeline
- Government programs advertising in local news
- Recommendations on other stakeholders to engage as part of the task force
- Discussion on next steps:
 - o Determine next meeting date
 - o Members asked for recommendations on additional stakeholders to engage

Public Comment: No members of the public offered comment.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned by Chairman Stadelman at approximately 2:59 p.m.