

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL MEETING  
FAYETTEVILLE CITY COUNCIL AND FAYETTEVILLE-CUMBERLAND  
COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, CONFERENCE ROOM B  
1225 RAMSEY STREET, FAYETTEVILLE, NC  
NOVEMBER 30, 2011 – 9:30 AM  
MINUTES

PRESENT: Commissioner Kenneth Edge, Chairman  
Commissioner Ed Melvin  
Commissioner Jimmy Keefe  
Commissioner Billy King  
James Martin, County Manager  
Sally Shutt, Strategic Initiatives and Communications Manager  
Leslie Mozingo, The Ferguson Group Partner  
Debra M. Bryant, The Ferguson Group Managing Partner for  
Strategic Development  
Mayor Anthony G. Chavonne, City of Fayetteville  
Bobby Hurst, Fayetteville City Council Member  
Val Applewhite, Fayetteville City Council Member  
Kristoff Bauer, City of Fayetteville Assistant Manager  
Rebecca Rogers-Carter, City of Fayetteville Management Services  
Rebecca Tew, City of Fayetteville Management Services  
Doug Byrd, Fayetteville-Cumberland County Chamber of  
Commerce Government Liaison  
Candice H. White, Clerk to the Board

ABSENT: Commissioner Marshall Faircloth, Vice Chairman  
Commissioner Jeannette Council  
Commissioner Charles Evans

The purpose of this special meeting was for input on the development of the fiscal year 2013 federal agenda, and for an overview of the process and federal agenda outlook.

Leslie Mozingo, partner with The Ferguson Group, opened the meeting and distributed a status report of previous appropriations awarded. Ms. Mozingo thanked Chairman Edge for requesting that The Ferguson Group pull together the status report because of the need to monitor that any funds previously awarded did not fall by the wayside and risk rescission as a result.

Ms. Mozingo asked Debra M. Bryant, The Ferguson Group, Managing Partner for Strategic Development, to provide an overview of the appropriations process and an update on congressional timing. Ms. Bryant stated the 2012 budgets for the departments of agriculture, transportation, and commerce/justice/science had been completed. Ms. Bryant stated there are nine (9) bills remaining that will be folded into a single package that the leadership is indicating they want moved by December 16, 2011; should riders be placed on the process to slow it down, there will be a continuing resolution into next year. Ms. Bryant spoke to the recent redistricting, the legislative delegation representing this area, the upcoming elections, and the turnover of staff for new members of congress. Ms. Bryant stated The Ferguson Group works closely with the entire delegation in a bipartisan manner so when there is turnover, The Ferguson Group can stay engaged with all staff. Ms. Bryant spoke to the advantages for Cumberland County in having three House members serve the area and explained how The Ferguson Group works with those delegates.

Ms. Mozingo explained each year The Ferguson Group works with the local partnership to develop an agenda that sets the priorities they are to work on and take back to the legislative delegation. Ms. Mozingo stated the local partnership presents as one voice,

which has created a tremendous amount of leverage with the legislative delegation because they know they can safely move forward with any of the priorities without stepping on the toes of one or the other of the county, city, or the chamber. Ms. Mozingo stated The Ferguson Group will work to find the resources, to protect the interests and programs of the partnership, and will look for legislative situations that will either create opportunities or present barriers to the community. Ms. Mozingo explained after meeting with the department heads today, the agenda will return to the elected leaders for review, modification, and approval.

Ms. Mozingo reviewed portions of the status report and provided information on the omnibus bill for the Partnership for Defense Innovation (PDI) and the \$18 million for Murchison Road which is expected to be part of the omnibus bill. Ms. Mozingo stated it is included in the President's budget and the House and Senate's Military Appropriations bills, and she would be shocked if it did not end up being a final bill. Ms. Bryant explained the Murchison Road project began with \$17 million provided through North Carolina Department of Transportation from funding in the fiscal year 2011 Military Construction Appropriations. Ms. Bryant stated currently, both House and Senate bills have requested \$18 million for Phase 2 of the Murchison Road project, which will focus on the portion of Murchison Road that is north of Honeycutt. Ms. Bryant stated this funding arrangement does not cut into the federal funding formula. Ms. Bryant also stated The Ferguson Group needs to hear from the partnership what is needed next to handle the development of the Murchison Road area.

Ms. Mozingo and Ms. Bryant responded to questions regarding spending levels, and tax and defense issues. Ms. Bryant stated it is important for the community to embrace technology companies for military operations so the companies can grow and develop. Ms. Mozingo explained how certain departments could receive funding cuts that would only affect a few, but not all of their programs; examples were provided. Ms. Mozingo stated in places where there is not enough money to do what the congressional delegates want to do, they are looking for a way to create revenue and in some cases, that may be through special taxes or tax increases.

Commissioner Keefe asked which projects had a high probability of success and which projects had a historical lack of success. Ms. Mozingo stated there may be some issues that may be difficult for The Ferguson Group to have influence over, such as the state I-295 program which is not a federal program, but it is listed as a high priority for the region because it is a public document and there is a sense that it should be shown on the agenda. Ms. Mozingo also stated part of the goal today is to find a way to say to departments and management teams that the partnership really has to focus and select grants that are known to be a good fit and will be successful. Commissioner Keefe asked Ms. Mozingo if she was prepared to tell the departments that they need different priorities based on the fact that she knows the issues will not go anywhere. Ms. Mozingo responded in the affirmative and stated she will not allow a project to go forward that will embarrass the partnership or the delegation. Commissioner Keefe asked which projects had a high success rate. Ms. Mozingo responded high dollar capital projects that put people to work and stated it appears to be difficult to get programmatic funding. Ms. Mozingo also stated transportation, air quality and quality of living are current issues, but the focus can change from year to year, and from Congress to Congress, depending on the leadership; administrations can also change the focus or components of the same. Commissioner Keefe asked if the congressional delegation was willing to look at long term projects. Ms. Mozingo stated the delegation does not want to be seen as a supplement to local budgets but if they make an investment, they want to see that it pushes a project over the edge; the things that end up on their final list have to have some sort of non-federal match or commitment so that the federal funding is seen as closing the gap.

Doug Byrd, Fayetteville-Cumberland County Chamber of Commerce Government Liaison, asked whether The Ferguson Group worked with the North Carolina Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Bryant stated although she has had some meetings with them, she has not seen the North Carolina Chamber of Commerce to be very active in Washington, DC communicating with the congressional delegation. Ms. Mozingo stated The Ferguson Group is advocating with the state Chamber because they recognize the state Chamber

needs to be more strategic, more actively involved, and cover what the local chambers want.

Ms. Mozingo stated The Ferguson Group continues to work in support of the National Association of Counties (NACo) and the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) to look for overlaps and ways they can work on issues together so local and national organizations are all saying the same thing, which makes the message much more powerful and effective.

Ms. Mozingo stated attendees should receive a first working draft of the legislative agenda in about two weeks. Ms. Mozingo explained the agenda provides a base for their marching orders but The Ferguson Group will remain open for feedback and adjustments throughout the year.

Clarification was provided regarding funding for Murchison Road. Commissioner Edge stated all of the projects are important but prioritization of the various projects is a different matter. Mayor Chavonne spoke to the paradigm shift in Washington, DC and asked whether grant opportunities would be narrower than the former earmarking process. Ms. Mozingo explained many of the funds that were previously earmarked are now at the discretion of the agencies to distribute by competitive grants; previously with earmarking, Congress could go ahead and designate funding. Ms. Mozingo stated the community is no longer competing within its congressional district, it is now competing nationwide so the partnership needs to find those areas in which it stands out above the rest of the country. Ms. Mozingo stated she had a list of potential grants to share with the departments that The Ferguson Group felt were potential fits. A brief discussion followed and Ms. Mozingo responded to additional questions.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:50 A.M.

Approved with/without revision:

Respectfully submitted,

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Candice H. White  
Clerk to the Board