

GEDP UPDATE

GEDP NEW OFFICE LOCATION

1902 Mechanic
(corner of 19th and Ship's Mechanic Row)

To Contact the GEDP :

409-770-0216

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Mailing Address:
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Galveston, Texas 77553

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GEDP BOARD MEETING

Thursday
May 7, 2009
3:30 p.m.
Mario's on the Seawall

The Galveston Economic Development Partnership is a Private Non-Profit Membership based organization. Utilizing the strength of the public-private partners of the GEDP, the GEDP's mission continues to focus on the expansion of Galveston's employment and tax bases.

GEDP Quarterly Board Meeting May 7th 2009

The next meeting of the GEDP Board of Director's will be held on **Thursday - May 7, 2009.**

The meeting will begin with a networking session at 3:30p.m. at Mario's on the Seawall. The Board Meeting will be called to order at 4:00p.m.

Topics of conversation during this meeting will include the progress of the Galveston Business Recovery Fund, Executive Committee nominations.

Presentations by Mr. Haresh Krishnaro, Executive Director of the

Galveston Housing Authority and Mr. Brandon Wade, Assistant City Manager for the City of Galveston.

In addition, briefings will be provided by each of the active Task Forces for the GEDP.

Special appreciation is extended to Mr. Johnny Smecca of Mario's and to Mr. Bobby Enriquez of Texas Gas for sponsoring this meeting.

Please RSVP your attendance if you will be able to attend this exciting meeting by calling the GEDP offices at 409-770-0216.

GEDP Task Forces Hard at Work

GEDP Task Forces have refocused and have reinitiated their efforts in moving Galveston's business climate forward.

Over the past month the GEDP Executive Committee has reviewed both the existing Task Forces, as in place prior to Ike, as well as creating a few new initiatives for strategic areas of the GEDP.

Task Forces and their Chair's include:

Maritime	Jayson Levy/Bill McMullen
Housing & Sustainable Development	Steve Schulz
GIS Consortium	Staff
Bio-Galveston/ Technology	Chris Fredrickson
Hurricane Recovery	Craig Marston
Marketing	Gwen Wagner
Real Estate	V.J. Tramonte
Education	Bowen Loftin
Economic Development Incentives & Programs	Shrub Kempner

TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY OF THESE EFFORTS, PLEASE CALL THE GEDP OFFICES (409) 770-0216.

Galveston Business Recovery Fund

Contributions to the Galveston Business Recovery Fund can be directed to the following address:

HGAC Corporation for Regional Excellence
 c/o Galveston Business Recovery Fund
 P.O. Box 22777
 Houston, Texas 77227-2777

Checks should be made out to the following:

HGAC Corporation for Regional Excellence

*(in the **memo line** of the check please identify **Galveston Business Recovery Fund**)*

Business Recovery Resources

The first loans of the GEDP Galveston Business Recovery Fund will be announced Thursday during the GEDP's Board Meeting at Mario's.

As the second phase of the GEDP's business recovery assistance program, these loans represent an alternative financing source for businesses negatively impacted by IKE.

Contributions to this vital resource for Galveston businesses have been made by numerous individuals, foundations (The Cullen Foundation and The Kempner Fund), and from regional allies.

Appreciation is extended to all of those who have either contributed or have committed to contributing to this important effort.

Programs or resources currently in development or in process include:

Galveston Business Recovery Fund

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)

Economic Development Administration (EDA)

Small Business Administration (SBA)

Governor's Office of Economic Development and Tourism

Recovery Tools in development:

CDBG	\$267 Million
Housing	60%
Infrastructure / Economic Development	40%
EDA Public Works Grants	\$20 Million
Regional Revolving Loan Fund	\$10 Million

(The numbers above illustrate preliminary estimates to date)

GEDP Travels to Florida and Austin

Over the past month, your staff at the GEDP has traveled to Manatee County Florida and to Austin for issues ranging from Windstorm Insurance, UTMB and Hurricane Recovery.

At the invitation of Manatee County Florida, Jeffrey Sjostrom accompanied Mayor Lyda Ann Thomas to share experiences related to hurricane planning, response and recovery. Presentations were made to several entities, including a town-hall style meeting for residents.

Sjostrom was also invited to participate in a business roundtable made up of area chambers, economic development entities and area businesses. Discussions resulted in ideas and networking for greater disaster recovery planning and implementation.

In addition to Florida, GEDP staff traveled to Austin to listen to committee hearings on Windstorm Insurance legislation and to show our support for the University of Texas Medical Branch.

Not enough can be said of our solid leadership representing Galveston's interest in Austin! As always, the GEDP continues seeking opportunities to educate and advocate on the economic future of Galveston Island.

Recognition must also be given to all of those Galvestonians who tirelessly participate in the events of the State Legislature on behalf of Galveston. We will recognize these individuals in a future newsletter.

Galveston Business Recovery Fund Loan Applications

To Receive the Application Form or to discuss the possibility of participating in this program, please contact the GEDP.

Loans are made on a first-come, first-served basis and are possible as long as funding is available.

GEDP Contact Information:

(409) 770-0216

email: gedp@gedp.org

GEDP Task Forces

Housing and Sustainable Development

Chaired by Steve Schulz, this Task Force continues with a focus on new housing opportunities and the opportunity of creating sustainable development across Galveston Island.

Recently this Task Force identified and addressing three fundamental barriers to increasing home ownership on the Island:

1. Construction Financing.
2. Homeowner Financing.
3. Permitting/Regulatory Environment of new Projects.

In addition to the activities that this Task Force has traditionally overseen, monitoring of the City's CDBG allocations and what implications this may have on the housing market of Galveston has been added.

Marketing

Chaired by Gwen Wagner, this Task Force is currently reviewing all aspects of GEDP marketing for programs and services. Materials under review include all collateral pieces of the GEDP as well as any special reports or marketing efforts geared at the expansion of Galveston's employment and tax bases.

A primary goal of this effort has been identified as promoting more regularly the efforts of the GEDP and the collaborations in place for educating and advocating for the improvement of Galveston's overall economic climate.

Hurricane Recovery

Chaired by Craig Marston, this Task Force has initiated the task of incorporating lessons learned during Hurricane Ike into the ongoing planning efforts of the GEDP for continuity planning for catastrophic events.

Issues identified for priority handling include reentry procedures, permitting and assessments, and the utilization of local businesses in the recovery and reconstruction of Galveston.

Education/Workforce Development

Chaired by Dr. Bowen Loftin, this Task Force will be participating with the P-16 Council, addressing Workforce Development training needs and seeking opportunities to support educational opportunities across Galveston Island.

Bio-Galveston / Technology

Chaired by Chris Fredrickson, this Task Force continues seeking new investment opportunities from emerging technology companies. In addition to supporting the creation of a dedicated Technology Center for Galveston, this initiative creates a networking environment for emerging technology companies.

Maritime

Chaired by Jayson Levy and Dr. Bill McMullen, this Task Force continues seeking new avenues for publicizing the economic importance of our industrial partners on Galveston Island.

Last year this Task Force completed an industrial survey of those businesses located on the Island that were involved in the Maritime/Support Service for Offshore Oil. This survey identified over 85 companies with an estimated workforce of 2,500 - 3,000 workers.

As this was a growing sector of the Galveston economy prior to Hurricane Ike, this Task Force continues exploring opportunities for expansion, diversification and new locations for companies seeking to take advantage of the opportunities presented in Galveston.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

Operating through a consortium of various entities, the GEDP continues an active GIS program for use by parties interested in geographic information pertaining to the infrastructure and economic climate of Galveston.

Partners to this initiative include City of Galveston, Galveston County Central Appraisal District, Texas A&M University at Galveston, Galveston County, ESRI, HGAC, Galveston Historical Foundation, Texas Gas and others.

Economic Development Incentives

Chaired by Shrub Kempner, this Task Force will be focused on the usage of the 4B Sales Tax for Economic Development as recently passed, as well as continuing to monitor any economic development financial incentive that may become available to the benefit of the Galveston business community.

Real Estate

Chaired by V.J. Tramonte, this Task Force is working on reestablishing the available properties database through the GEDP as well as facilitating effective discussions on the availability and adaptive reuse of vacant or available property for development.

Other Community Recovery Planning Efforts

Galveston Community Recovery Committee

Presentations have been made to the Galveston City Council. Staff from the GEDP have been designated as the Project Leader for the Center for Technology and Workforce Development.

Although envisioned as two separate and distinct facilities, discussions continue on the need for available space for emerging technology companies as well as the need for a permanent facility for workforce training programs.

In addition to Technology and Workforce development issues, the GEDP continues monitoring the

myriad of other projects including: Environmental; Infrastructure; Housing; and, Transportation.

All of the identified projects will continue moving forward with the identification of financial resources and implementation strategies.

For more information on the Galveston Community Recovery Committee, please visit : www.recoverygalveston.org

Governor's Commission for Disaster Recovery and Renewal

Last month Chairman Robert Eckels delivered the interim report from the Governor's Commission for Disaster Recovery and Renewal to Governor Rick Perry.

This report is the culmination of four meetings and testimony received from several community representatives held along the coastline of Texas. To view this report, click and open the following link:

[Governor's Commission Interim Report.pdf](#)

The next meeting of the Governor's Commission is scheduled for May 21, 2009.

Contained within this report are recommendations addressing temporary housing, local match needs, greater coordination at the State Level, business recovery resources and improvements to FEMA.

Jeffrey Sjostrom, President of the GEDP has been an appointed member of this Commission along with Dr. Karen Sexton from UTMB.

The Commission will now move forward with subcommittees on issue specific activities that can be developed for implementing the recommendations that have been identified within the Interim Report.

Galveston Economic Development Partnership -- JOIN TODAY

The GEDP is a membership based organization dedicated to the expansion of Galveston's Employment and Tax bases. As a membership based Economic Development organization, the GEDP depends upon the investments of its' membership. To become a member of the GEDP or to receive more information on the various activities of this exciting organization, please call our offices at (409) 770-0216.