

Questions in Chat & by Follow Up to Jan 11, 2022, Economic Equity Policy Dialogue with Mayor Ken Welch

Time 00:41:52

P.A. Tibbs, SS MHsa: Can the Mayor and the ADMIN please address the Instruc Invest & Job ACT 2021 and how the Mayor will make this a part of His/They Equity planning Esp. Broadband INTERNET expansion.

01:11:55

Linda Marcelli: Mayor Welch....Congratulations to us all over your election. Wonderful times ahead. What are your plans to address the Reading Gap between African American and white high school graduates?? It's such a foundation of racial inequity!!!

01:16:45

Randall Russell: Happy New Year and Congratulations again Mayor. Thank you Gypsy and team for pulling this important conversation together. Related to the 86 acres of Opportunity - should we not start with listening to displaced families, residents, business, and churches? Nothing about us, without us, listen first and then shape plans for the development that takes the life experiences of those displaced. And listening to those who are now adjacent to this glorious plot of public land should also be included. All equitable economic development should start with listening to those out of equity - do you see that as part of the economic development toward equity approach? The Foundation sees this as a fundamentally necessary step to equitable economic development. Thank you!

01:20:42

Patty Sawyer: Mayor Welch, congratulations on your election! Pinellas Opportunity Council (POC) stands ready to work with your administration! Is there a plan for the current St. Petersburg Wrap Around Program to continue beyond 2023?

01:21:43

Valerie Hyman: Mayor Welch, You've said how complex and multi-layered solutions are for our workforce housing shortage. Understanding as you do that zoning can go only so far toward resolving it, and that limited and restricted government funds are available, how exactly will you engage the private sector in this housing emergency? We're referring specifically to mortgage lenders and banks.

01:23:24

Aaron Dietrich: Mayor Welch: Are you open to increasing current city budget allocation to the area of affordable housing?

01:26:51

Erica Hall: Thank you Mayor Welch I would like to know what your Administration's plans are for environmental equity. Economic equity is critical for our success. However equity also means our environmental equity particularly around climate change in our area. Alarming sea level rising and coastal high hazard areas are important

01:29:04

Erica Hall: Food insecurity is very important as well. How do we bring food justice and equity to food insecure neighborhoods throughout St Petersburg

01:30:33

Renee Edwards: Question: Being we have over three dozen initiatives for the city, and the Saturday morning Shoppe isn't listed/added. What would support look like for the small businesses at the Saturday morning Shoppe?

01:31:49

Tim Dutton: There are opportunities for innovation around "how" decisions are made about these real issues of economic development and affordable housing. They involve who has the authority to make decisions. While traditional stakeholders such as government agencies, employers, workforce development providers, business leaders, and familiar community-based organizations also participate, this new equitable economic development approach represents a shift in power and authority to residents. How do you see the city generating this kind of movement?

01:45:16

Elizabeth Siplin: I have a question about making the local businesses accountable about how they are maintaining their businesses in the black communities. We focus so much on the beautification of our city, but completely forget about the disparity of what our communities look like in our stores and gas stations. It's like crossing the railroad track mentality that it's ok for us to live in those environments. Thanks

01:47:22

Alex Morfesis: Two questions...one...asking that st Pete based organizations be included more often in the monthly meetings city retained staff has with the tampa builders association..and second...any objection if you're truly works to bring in other sports teams internationally who might find real value in a ready to go stadium

01:52:04

Bridgette Heller: Mayor Welch noted that he'd like to establish enhanced youth programming, especially around STEAM, in the community. I believe he also spoke about pursuing that objective via improvements in community facilities such as Enoch Davis. Is there a specific group of folks working on this strategic area? As you know, this is a big part of the SPPF agenda as we seek to close the achievement gap and prepare students from specific communities to compete for higher wage jobs in STEAM fields." Thanks. Bridgette

Via EMAIL:

Dontriel Lawson: Speaking on Economic Equity, how will you prevent city contracts, often set aside for SBE's, from being awarded to company's domiciled outside of the city? For example, my company has the janitorial contract for 2 private entities on the pier but the janitorial contract for the pier itself was given to a company domiciled in Tampa. Not necessarily advocating for myself but **I KNOW** that there are other capable local companies to do the work.

■ END