

**Minutes of Business Opportunity Breakfast**

**Wednesday, March 14, 2018**

Location: Gateway Media Arts Lab
3311 Rhode Island Avenue
Mount Rainier, MD 20712

**Members present**: Larry Solomon, Treasurer;Izzi Sparrow, Secretary; Neil Dicken; Michelle Lee, Abby Wilkins, Sharita Williams, Shawna Barnett-Grizzell, Alma Ferrufino, John Williams Sr., Samantha Olatunji

The monthly membership meeting was held at 8:30am.

1. Discussion by John Williams, Sr. Code Enforcement Officer of Mt. Rainier, about how he sees his role in the community
2. Alma Ferrufino, from the City’s Code Enforcement Office stated that letters of business license renewal had been distributed in January, with a deadline of Feb. 28, for renewal. She stated that for businesses who had not received such notices, there would be an extension until April. Encouraged businesses to be proactive about the process and reach out to her.
3. The Public Works person has not been hired as yet. Also, goal is to have John Williams as the senior inspector and for another inspector to be hired to be more of a “daily inspector.” City Manager wants person to be bilingual.
4. Michelle Lee discussed the gap that lies with building owners and business owners—how code enforcement needs to know the building owners so as to address building code violations with them, and not individual business owners
5. Michelle Lee suggested the creation of a “welcome packet” for new business owners and for the need of the City’s website to have updated information for new businesses as well.
6. Toni discussed with Alma the need for sharing directory information back and forth between the City and the Association with all agreeing on the need for cooperation.
7. Alma has made it a point to reach out to Latino businesses owners about attending the meeting.
8. Samantha Olatunji advised she will be attending a conference hosting developers and welcomes any contributions from our community for the City’s exhibit. Gave her cell number to members: 240-462-3946. Conference was March 21-22.