

Meeting the Moment: Collective Effort to Increase Housing Production and Affordability in the Capital Region with the Housing Indicator Tool

Speaker Biographies

Opening Remarks



Sarah Rosen Wartell became the third president of the Urban Institute since its founding in 1968. A nonprofit research organization of more than 650 staff members, Urban provides data and evidence to accelerate solutions and advance upward mobility and equity. Urban is a trusted source for changemakers who seek to strengthen decision-making, create inclusive economic growth, and improve the well-being of families and communities. Urban has delivered facts that inspire solutions, and this remains our charge today. Before joining Urban, Wartell was the founding chief operating officer and then executive vice president of the Center for American Progress, where

her work focused on the economy and housing markets. She also served as deputy assistant to the president for economic policy and deputy director of the White House National Economic Council. At the US Department of Housing and Urban Development from 1993 to 1998, Wartell advised the federal housing commissioner on housing finance, mortgage markets, and consumer protection. She was later a consultant to the bipartisan Millennial Housing Commission. Before her government service, Wartell practiced law with the Washington, DC, firm Arnold & Porter. Wartell serves on the boards of Enterprise Community Partners and Georgetown Day School. She is also a member of the executive board of the National Academy of Public Administration's Center for Intergovernmental Partnerships, the Sadie Collective's Advisory Council, Bank of America's National Community Advisory Council, and the Evidence and Equity Collaborative. Her areas of expertise include community development, consumer finance, asset building, and housing finance. Wartell has an AB with honors in urban affairs from the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs, a JD from Yale Law School, and an honorary doctorate of public service from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.



Courtney Battle is the Executive Director for the Housing Association of Nonprofit Developers (HAND). HAND's growing network of members includes a wide variety of real estate and community development professionals in the Capital Region (Baltimore, Washington and Richmond) who share the mission of creating more equitable outcomes through the vehicle of affordable housing. Courtney believes that relationships are one of life's cornerstones, and cultivating a strong network of changemakers who are transforming communities is vital to addressing the inequities that create barriers to opportunity. Courtney joined the organization in October 2016 as Membership Manager, and was promoted to

Membership Director in July 2019. In these capacities, she was responsible for: the recruitment, management and engagement of members; launching and administering the association management system for 1,000+ members and 400+ prospective members; implementing the organization's marketing & communications initiatives (including the website, social media, e-blasts sent to 10,000+ inboxes, annual



marketing materials, blog posts and the annual fundraiser digital program book distributed to 1,000+ attendees); the planning and execution of 40+ training and capacity building events each year; overseeing activities of the committee supporting the emerging leader member segment; and supporting the Executive Director in special projects. In July 2021, Courtney was promoted to Director of Strategic Partnerships & Membership. In this role she led a wide range of projects designed to scale HAND's reach across the region and increase the organization's ability to build its members' capacity. These included, but are not limited to: relationship building and strengthening; fundraising activities; assessing member needs that can be translated to programming and/or advocacy initiatives; serving as an ambassador for the organization in external events and media interviews; overseeing membership functions; and leading the marketing and communications strategy. Courtney brings a wealth of experience in journalism and communications to her work. Prior to joining HAND, she served as an Account Manager for a local public affairs firm, and spent several years at CNN's Washington, DC bureau as a News Assistant and Media Coordinator. Service is also deeply embedded in her DNA, and Courtney has engaged with several community organizations which include Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Reading Partners, and Community ONE. She has the pleasure of serving as a Board member for Women of Color in Community Development, and was President of the Board from 2020-2021. She also successfully completed the Illuminate Your Leadership Nonprofit Coaching Program and Prosperity Now's Building High Impact Nonprofits of Color initiative. She received her Bachelor's degree from Howard University, where she majored in Journalism and minored in Afro-American Studies. She is originally from Southfield, Michigan, and has found a second home in Washington, DC.



Christina Autin is a National Relationship and Program Manager for the Housing Access & Affordability Philanthropy team within the Wells Fargo Foundation, one of the largest corporate foundations in the United States. As a member of the Housing Access & Affordability Philanthropy team, Christina manages national investment strategies that foster interventions and innovative solutions that increase access to affordable, sustainable, and wealth-generating housing for vulnerable populations and communities. In her role, she manages key national relationships and initiatives that center equitable housing solutions to strengthen historically marginalized communities and help them build generational wealth. She is also responsible

for sourcing and lifting up potential national housing models and investments from the Northeast and DC/Mid-Atlantic/C Carolinas regions, in addition to leading efforts to promote cross collaboration between Housing Access & Affordability and the Foundation's other national focus areas. Prior to her role with Housing Access & Affordability, Christina was Vice President and Lead Consultant for Policy & Engagement in the Office of Consumer Practices with Wells Fargo, responsible for analyzing and advising the business on consumer-focused practices and policies. She comes to this work with deep roots in housing affordability, including critical community-level experience as Director of Legislative & Public Affairs for a large Public Housing Authority and Housing Finance Agency and Legislative and Policy Fellow for one of the largest affordable housing nonprofit member networks in the country. She has a Bachelor of Arts in English with a concentration in Cultural Studies from Dartmouth College and a Doctor of Jurisprudence from Tulane University School of Law with a focus in Public Interest Law.





Malachi McKinney is Senior Finance Manager at the Amazon Housing Equity Fund, where he leads underwriting, financial planning, and analysis for Amazon's portfolio of subordinate loans for the acquisition and development of affordable multifamily housing in the Puget Sound, Nashville, and Greater Washington, D.C. metropolitan areas. Mr. McKinney currently manages a portfolio of over \$2 billion in loans and loan commitments. Previously, Mr. McKinney was both Vice President of Development and Vice President of Asset Management at Avanath Capital Management. In these roles, Mr. McKinney was responsible for underwriting and deployment of capital for affordable and workforce multifamily redevelopment and new development

initiatives, as well as budgeting, financial reporting, and various aspects of property operations across a national portfolio of affordable communities. In previous roles, Mr. McKinney provided real estate capital markets advisory services and served as a real estate attorney in both the private and public sectors, including with Kirkland & Ellis LLP and the Attorney General's Office for the District of Columbia. Mr. McKinney holds a Master of Business Administration degree from the Northwestern University Kellogg School of Management, a Juris Doctorate degree from Stanford Law School, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Symbolic Systems from Stanford University.

HIT 4.0 Release, Featuring 2023 Housing Outcomes



Leah Hendey is a principal research associate in the Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center at the Urban Institute, where her research focuses on policy to improve urban neighborhoods. She is experienced in transforming national and local administrative datasets to create neighborhood indicators and study neighborhood conditions. Since 2007, Hendey has been involved in Urban's work with the National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership (NNIP) and serves as its co-director. She provides strategic direction to the network, led an effort to provide technical assistance to build local data intermediary capacity in two sites, and managed NNIP's work on using Integrated Data Systems to address neighborhood policy problems. In addition to research on

neighborhoods across the country, Hendey is a key member of the Urban-Greater DC team, an Urban program that seeks to inform policy debate and decision-making to address persistent inequalities and improve economic mobility and access to opportunity in the DC region. She has led several projects on the greater DC area, including a survey on residents' perceptions and attitudes and studies on foreclosure, affordable housing needs, and racial inequities. Hendey holds a master of public policy degree from the McCourt School of Public Policy at Georgetown University.





Taylor Phillips is the Director of Public Policy for the Housing Association of Nonprofit Developers (HAND). With a background in strategy development, policy analysis, cross-sector stakeholder engagement and a commitment to racial equity, she is dedicated to the advancement of HAND's mission of ensuring a Capital region where all can thrive. As a highly motivated professional with dual degrees focused on policy and business, she brings an interdisciplinary background that enables her to approach policy challenges with a holistic perspective and leverage data-driven insights to inform decision-making. Taylor's academic and professional experiences working with organizations across the public, private, and non-profit sectors have honed her ability to analyze complex policy issues, develop strategic

partnerships, and drive positive change through cross-sector collaboration. Taylor brings a wealth of cross-sector experience in strategy and policy development to her role. Prior to joining HAND, she was a Senior Consultant at Booz Allen Hamilton, helping government clients craft and execute their policy and programmatic agendas by conducting environmental policy research and analysis, developing congressional reports, and facilitating interdisciplinary working groups. As a social impact consultant with Community Wealth Partners, she conducted hundreds of interviews with stakeholders, synthesized and communicated findings, and made data-driven recommendations to assist non-profit clients in achieving their financial and mission goals. At Trust Neighborhoods, she developed a partnership and ecosystem-building strategy to meet stakeholder needs and facilitated the initial cohort convening of community development organizations in the program. Taylor also carries a strong passion for advocating for equitable policies and communicating complex topics. At Harvard, she researched promising policy solutions across the country that prioritize racial equity in housing and community development and crafted policy recommendations for local officials to consider to fuel equitable access to housing. She also worked to advocate for greater equity from within organizations, co-leading work at Community Wealth Partners to operationalize racial equity into the firm's way of working. She conducted research on best practices and led firm-wide working sessions to create a shared vision of the culture, and the steps to take as an institution and individuals to get there. In her new role, she looks forward to applying her interdisciplinary background, strategy development and policy analysis experience, and passion for re-designing systems to be more equitable.

Collective Action Toward Moving the Needle: Cross-Sector Approaches to Increase Housing Production and Affordability in the Capital Region



Jovan Burton is the Executive Director for the Partnership for Housing Affordability, a nonprofit focused on creating greater access to housing opportunity through policy, research, and collaboration. In this role, Mr. Burton works with local governments, developers, community groups, and key stakeholders to advance housing policy and educate decision-makers on the region's needs. Mr. Burton serves on the board of directors for Housing Families First, Area Congregations Together in Service, the Valentine Museum, ChamberRVA, and is the current Chair of the Greater Richmond Continuum of Care. He is also a member of Greater Richmond's African American Nonprofit Leaders Collective, the Amandla Fund for Racial & Economic Justice, and

Virginia Commonwealth University's Real Estate Circle of Excellence. Mr. Burton is a graduate of Hampden-Sydney College with a bachelor's degree in government and foreign affairs and has a master's



degree in public administration from the Douglas L. Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs at Virginia Commonwealth University. He also holds a certificate in Nonprofit Leadership from the Boston College Carroll School of Management.



George Kleb Executive Director of Bon Secours Baltimore Community Works, a subsidiary of Bon Secours Mercy Health (BSMH). As such he is responsible for all services provided by Bon Secours in the Baltimore market including family and children’s services, economic development initiatives and affordable housing development and operations. Employed at Bon Secours since 1987, he is also a key member of BSMH’s Community Health team where he participates in the creation of strategies in the areas of housing, community development and community engagement that address the social determinants and influencers of health in the seven (7) states served by the health system. He has been recognized as one of the chief architects of

Operation ReachOut Southwest, an award-winning neighborhood revitalization initiative in southwest Baltimore that has resulted in more than \$150 million in capital improvements and \$45 million in grant funded programs to the neighborhoods surrounding Grace Medical Center (formerly Bon Secours Hospital) since 1994. George received his B.A. in 1982 from Western Maryland College and a Certificate in Housing and Community Development from the University of Maryland in 1998. He lives in Reisterstown, MD with his wife, Tina.



Brett Macleod is an Executive Director at JPMorgan Chase in the Community Development Banking group, where he finances affordable housing and urban revitalization real estate projects throughout the Mid-Atlantic. Prior to joining JPMC in April 2012, he was a Banker at Citigroup in the Citi Community Capital division. Brett has originated over \$2.0 billion of loans for a variety of deal types, including affordable rental properties, for-sale housing projects, mixed-use real estate deals and large-scale urban retail centers. Brett currently serves as a board member for Cinnaire (formerly known as Great Lakes Capital Fund); Housing Association of Nonprofit Developers (HAND); and National Housing Trust Community Development Fund. He holds two BA’s from Williams College and earned an

MBA, magna cum laude, from the F.W. Olin Graduate School of Business at Babson College with concentrations in Finance and Global Management.



Kate Owens is the of Director of Investments at Jair Lynch Real Estate Partners, where she is instrumental in fortifying the firm’s financial strategies and broadening its commitment to preserving and creating housing for all. Her vast experience and deep understanding of affordable housing markets enable her to integrate innovative financing models and strategic partnerships, thereby enhancing the firm’s capacity to deliver impactful housing projects. At Jair Lynch, Owens’ expertise is not just an asset but a keystone in the firm’s strategy to address the pressing need for attainable housing. Her innovative approach to financing and development, combined with a solid foundation in policy and economics, bolsters the firm’s capacity to make significant strides in reducing

housing disparities and contributing to the creation of inclusive communities. Prior to her tenure at Jair



Lynch, Owens held roles such as a principal at HR&A Advisors, where she led the national affordable housing practice. Her tenure at HR&A was marked by significant achievements, including her pivotal role in advising Amazon on the structuring and investment strategies for their \$2 billion Housing Equity Fund. This work underscores her ability to collaborate with major corporate entities to address housing affordability at scale. Her career also spans influential roles at the World Resources Institute, the World Bank, Wells Fargo, and Jones Lang LaSalle, providing her with a comprehensive perspective on the global and local dynamics of real estate investment and urban development. Owens' academic achievements include a Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy and Economics from the University of Chicago and a PhD in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Michigan. These credentials have equipped her with the analytical tools and theoretical knowledge to tackle complex issues in urban planning and real estate development, with a particular focus on creating equitable and sustainable housing solutions. Her multifaceted career reflects a deep commitment to leveraging real estate as a tool for societal benefit, particularly in enhancing access to housing that is both affordable and attainable.



Carmen Romero is the President and CEO of Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing. Prior to becoming CEO, Ms. Romero led the Real Estate Development team in creating and preserving more than 1,800 new affordable housing units in Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Montgomery counties. Today, APAH's portfolio consists of 22 affordable apartment communities in four jurisdictions across the region, totaling 2,800 units, with more than 4,500 individuals and families who call an APAH apartment home. APAH has delivered several innovative, award-winning affordable housing properties, including Terwilliger Place, Queens Court, Gilliam Place, Columbia Hills, and The Springs. In her first year as CEO, Ms. Romero supervised two projects that delivered in 2022: Lucille & Bruce

Terwilliger Place, a 160-unit affordable property born out of an innovative partnership with American Legion Post 139, and a joint venture with E&G Group to develop APAH's first property in Loudoun County, Loudoun View Senior Residences, which consists of 98 units of affordable senior housing. Real estate milestones in 2023 included closing on three large-scale projects: 500+ units at The Exchange at Springhill Station in Tysons Corner, Riggs Crossing Senior Residences in Washington, D.C. and Marbella in Arlington. APAH was also awarded the RFP for Crystal House in Arlington, which will consist of at least 655 affordable units. Most recently, Ms. Romero oversaw the creation of APAH's new strategic plan, which will guide the organization from 2023 to 2027, and is responsible for its implementation. She has increased the size of APAH's Resident Services and Accounting teams to align with APAH's real estate portfolio growth.



Brett Theodos is a senior fellow and director of the Community Economic Development Hub at the Urban Institute. His work focuses on economic and community development, neighborhood change, affordable homeownership, consumer finance, and program evaluation and learning. His research includes evaluations of the Economic Development Administration, New Markets Tax Credit, Small Business Administration loan and investment programs, Opportunity Zones, and the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's Choice Neighborhoods, Community Development Block Grant, and Section 108 programs. He is studying how capital flows (or fails to flow) into communities, including the role of mission finance actors like community development financial



institutions. He leads projects researching how entrepreneurs can access capital. Theodos has conducted studies of neighborhood change and geographic mobility. He is evaluating several place-based initiatives. He's led studies of affordable homeownership supports, including shared equity models like community land trusts. In the financial capability space, he's led studies of financial coaching, financial curriculum, and rules of thumb for decision-making. He's explored the geography of debt. Theodos is working to grow nonprofit capacity in performance measurement. He directs Measure4Change, which provides technical assistance and facilitates a community of practice for nonprofits and has led randomized controlled trial evaluations of youth workforce and education preparedness programs. Theodos serves on the Board of the Center for Community Progress, the Douglass Community Land Trust, and the Housing Authority of Prince George's County. Theodos received his BA from Northwestern University, MPP from Georgetown University, and PhD in public policy from George Washington University.

Local Policies, Regional Impact: Elected Officials & Housing Directors' Perspectives on What's Needed to Make Progress as a Region



Thomas Fleetwood was appointed as the Director of Fairfax County Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) in March 2016. Mr. Fleetwood has more than 20 years of experience in the field of housing and community development and has been with the Fairfax County Department of Housing and Community Development since 2005. He has served in a number of roles within the agency including Strategic Planner, Associate Director for the FCRHA, Director of FCRHA Policy, Reporting and Communications, and Acting Director. Under Mr. Fleetwood's leadership, the Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority (FCRHA) and HCD have delivered a number of landmark affordable housing projects via innovative public-private partnerships, including the Residences at the

Government Center, a 279-unit apartment community on the campus of Fairfax County's government headquarters, and The Fallstead at Lewinsville, an 82-unit senior housing development in McLean, Virginia. During his tenure, the FCRHA successfully converted its entire Public Housing stock under the federal Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program and has implemented critical innovations through the FCRHA's prestigious Moving to Work designation. Mr. Fleetwood was awarded Fairfax County's prestigious A. Heath Onthank Award in 2012, the FCRHA's Conrad Egan Excellence Award for Service in 2014 and was recognized as one of Housing's Virginia "Top 40 under 40" in 2012. He received the Katherine K. Hanley Award for Public Service from Leadership Fairfax in 2022. Mr. Fleetwood has a bachelor's degree in Interdepartmental Studies from West Virginia University and attended the Senior Executive Institute, Cooper Center for Public Service at the University of Virginia in 2013.



Alyia Gaskins was elected to City Council in 2021 and is serving her first three-year term. She is dedicated to building a healthier, more prosperous Alexandria for all. Alyia represents the Council on several local and regional boards, including: Audit and Finance Committee; Health and Safety Coordinating Committee; Inova Alexandria Hospital Task Force; Landmark Community Development Authority Board of Directors; City Naming Committee; Gang Prevention Community Task Force; Children, Youth and Families Collaborative Commission; Local Emergency Planning Committee; Council of Governments: Public Safety and Human Services Committee; Council of Governments Region Forward Coalition; Council of Governments: Regional



Transportation Planning Board; and the Northern Virginia Regional Commission. As a public health strategist and city planner, Alyia has worked on hunger policy at D.C. Hunger Solutions and health issues at the National League of Cities, as well as managing an affordable housing investment program at the Center for Community Investment. Currently, she is a Senior Program Officer at the Melville Charitable Trust, a national philanthropic organization devoted to ending homelessness, where she leads efforts to advance housing justice through better land use policies. Her consulting business, CitiesRX, focuses on building physical, social, and economic health through community partnerships. Alyia has long been committed to using her personal experience and extensive professional expertise to advance policies and systems that make communities work for everyone. Prior to her election to City Council, she served on the Virginia Fair Housing Board, the Alexandria Transportation Commission, the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce Government Relations Committee, the Hunger Free Alexandria Steering Committee, Agenda Alexandria, Women of Color in Community Development Board of Directors, and the Good Shepherd Housing Leadership Council. She also volunteers with her church, National Community Church. Alyia understands both how stable jobs, good schools, and affordable housing positively affect health and how to advance policies and programs to ensure all families can access these critical resources. She attended Vanderbilt University, where she majored in medicine, health, and society, and later went to the University of Pittsburgh, where she earned a master's degree in public health. More recently, she honed her policy chops with a master's in urban planning at Georgetown and earned a Professional Certificate in Municipal Finance from the University of Chicago. Alyia lives on the West End with her husband, daughter, son, and beagle.



Colleen Green was appointed Director of the DC Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) on January 3, 2023. Prior to her appointment, Ms. Green was the Vice President of Business Development and Strategic Initiatives at CORE DC and Managing Partner for Ashleys Builders. Ms. Green has extensive experience in finance, real estate, advisory services, operations, strategic planning, and business development. Throughout her career, Ms. Green has developed over 2000 units of housing and overseen the acquisitions and dispositions for a \$60 million national real estate investment fund. Before her role as Vice President of Business Development and Strategic Initiatives, Ms. Green managed CORE's business portfolio which included community reentry,

homeless shelters, and transitional housing for marginalized communities. In addition, Ms. Green has previously worked at several prolific financial institutions, operated her own property management and construction management firm, and served as Chief of Staff for the Department of Housing and Community Development. Ms. Green received a Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies from the University of Pennsylvania and a Master of Science in Real Estate from New York University.



John Hall is the director of the Loudoun County Department of Housing and Community Development. As director of the Department of Housing and Community Development, Hall oversees a department that supports the community in obtaining safe and affordable housing. Prior to being established as an independent department, affordable housing programs and services were administered through the Office of Housing within the Office of the County Administrator. Hall has more than 20 years of professional experience in housing and community development, most recently in the city of Spokane, Washington,



where he served as director of the Neighborhood, Housing and Human Services Division. His previous experience includes serving as executive director of the Indianapolis Housing Agency; executive director of the Wichita, Kansas, Housing Authority; director of the Wichita Housing and Community Services Department; a field director for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; and director of the District of Columbia Department of Housing and Community Development. Hall holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan and a master's degree in public administration from Syracuse University.



Takis Karantonis is an economist and urban planner with more than 25 years of urban and regional planning experience. He was first elected to the County Board in a special election on July 7, 2020, to fill the seat vacated by the late Board Member Erik Gutshall and then re-elected on November 2, 2021, to serve a four-year term. In 2024, Takis is serving as the County Board liaison to the Economic Development Commission, Transportation Commission, Arlington Neighborhoods Advisory Committee (formerly known as Neighborhoods Conservation Program), Northern Virginia Park Authority, the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust, Arlington Independent Media, and the National Landing Business Improvement District. Takis is also Co-Chair of the County Board's Audit Committee and the County Board's liaison to Arlington's Sister Cities Association. In the region, Takis serves as the Chair

of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) Region Forward Coalition. He is the immediate past Chair and continues to be a member of the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPCE) and has been a member and also served as the Chair of the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC). He represents Arlington on the National Capital Regional Transportation Planning Board (TPB) and MWCOG's Human Services Policy Committee. Takis represents Arlington on the Virginia Railway Express (VRE) Operations Board and on the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC). Born in Athens, Greece, Takis studied economics in Germany, graduating from Berlin's Freie Universität with a master's degree in urban and regional economics, emphasizing on inequalities inherent to regional and urban development processes. Until 2022, Takis was a Senior Technical Advisor for the Microloan Program at the Enterprise Development Group of the Ethiopian Community Development Center in Arlington, specializing in financial and technical support for, mostly minority and women owned, small businesses and startups. From 2009-2016 he served as the Executive Director of the Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization (CPRO). During his tenure, he led the implementation of innovative urban revitalization policies, such as a Form Based Code and a place-making agenda throughout the Pike Corridor, engaging in policy and advocacy with an emphasis on public transit, land use, housing, retail, and economic development. His efforts resulted in the 2015 American Institute of Architects, Northern Virginia Chapter Award to CPRO for outstanding contributions to redevelopment and revitalization efforts on Columbia Pike. Since arriving in Arlington 16 years ago, Takis has been a civically engaged community leader. He served in several resident advisory commissions. He is a member and former President of the Columbia Heights Civic Association. He served as a volunteer, member, and chair of the Board of Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment (now EcoAction Arlington) and the Alliance for Housing Solutions. He is a former member of the Arlington Public Art Committee. Takis is a graduate of Leadership Arlington (2010) and the University of Virginia Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership (2017). Thanks to his background and immigrant experience, Takis can communicate in Greek, English, Spanish, German, French, Italian, Portuguese, and Catalan. Takis and his wife, Dr. Lida Anestidou, live in the Columbia Heights neighborhood of South Arlington.





Aspasia Xypolia is the Director of the Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development. In this role, Aspasia is responsible for strengthening existing and launching new programs and financial instruments, guiding the Department's efforts to create and preserve healthy and inclusive communities where access to opportunity for all County residents is increased and ensuring alignment of the Department's efforts with the County's Economic Development Platform goals.



Robert McCartney is a retired Washington Post editor, columnist and correspondent who now hosts the "Think Regionally" podcast sponsored by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG). The podcast focuses on Washington metro area topics including housing, transportation, the environment, and racial and economic equity. Previously, in a 39-year career at The Post, McCartney was top editor of the Metro section when the staff won the Pulitzer Prize for Breaking News Reporting for coverage of the 2007

Virginia Tech shootings. Later he wrote about regional issues as a Metro columnist, and discussed them on a weekly radio analysis for WAMU 88.5-FM, the local NPR affiliate. As a foreign correspondent, McCartney covered the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, and civil wars in El Salvador and Nicaragua in the mid-1980s. He served as The Post's Foreign Editor, National Security Editor, Maryland Editor and Local Business Editor, and as Managing Editor of the International Herald Tribune in Paris. McCartney grew up in Montgomery County and graduated from Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School and Amherst College (Mass.). He lives in Bethesda with his wife, and they have a grown son.

