



FYI - December 10, 2019

Ready in 6 Analysis: Delaware's Permitting Process Makes State Less Competitive and Inhibits Economic Development

Fast Track Approvals, Streamlined Communication, and Greater Transparency and Predictability Needed to Strengthen State's Business Environment

A new independent analysis of Delaware's permitting process finds that other states in the region, including Maryland and Pennsylvania, are able to achieve substantially faster permit approvals for businesses wishing to locate or expand in the state. As a result, Delaware is missing significant economic development opportunities in the competition for jobs, talent and investment.

The analysis, conducted by professional services firm KPMG, concludes that Delaware has an opportunity to be more competitive if its permitting processes were strengthened through streamlined communication between state agencies, greater transparency and cost predictability, and a fast-track approval program for high-priority projects, among other recommendations.

"Coupled with low taxes, a prime location and a high-quality workforce, a more favorable permitting environment would make it significantly more likely that Delaware would be more competitive as we work to grow, retain and attract businesses to our state," said Rod Ward, Chairman, Delaware Business Roundtable and co-chair of the Delaware Prosperity Partnership. "These recommendations should serve as a roadmap for policymakers to develop a more predictable permitting process and a more competitive Delaware."

The analysis was commissioned by the Ready In 6 Coalition, comprised of Delaware Business Roundtable, Delaware State Chamber, Kent Economic Partnership, Greater Kent Committee, Sussex County Economic Development Action Team, ACEC Delaware, **The Committee of 100**, the Central Delaware Chamber, the New Castle County Chamber, Delaware Contractors Association, the Delaware Chapter of Associated Builders and Contractors, and the Home Builders Association of Delaware.

The analysis finds, "With significant competition between states for jobs, talent and investment, an efficient permit process is critical to demonstrate a favorable business climate and provide a predictable outcome for businesses seeking to locate or expand in Delaware. Because prospective businesses target locations which can achieve permitting in as few as six months, those states with longer permit timeframes experience reduced interest and missed economic development opportunities."

Delaware's permitting process can stretch up to 24 months, placing the state at a distinct economic development disadvantage when it comes to attracting and growing businesses. "In the region, Delaware's competitors, Maryland and Pennsylvania, are able to achieve substantially faster permit approvals. As a result, Delaware is missing significant economic development opportunities," the analysis concludes.

The partners have launched a "**Ready in 6**" initiative, designed to cut the permitting timeline from 24 months to six months to make Delaware more competitive with other states.

The report recommends state and county leaders improve in three key areas to streamline the permitting process in Delaware: Enhance communication, increase efficiency and reduce paperwork, and track and use data more effectively.

Read more of the press release [here](#) and download the full Ready in 6 analysis [here](#).

47th Annual Auction

On behalf of Auction Chair Greg Ritter, thank you to everyone who supported The Committee of 100 at our 47th Annual Auction last week.

Thank you to Presenting Sponsor

M&T Bank and to all the generous sponsors, item donors, advertisers, attendees, bidders and volunteers for contributing to the evening's success.

Special thanks to The Best Philly Photobooth for providing a fun surprise for our guests!



Save the Date

**The Committee of 100 Dinner Meeting
January 21, 2020**

**The University & Whist Club
805 N. Broom Street, Wilmington, DE 19806**

Cocktails & Networking

5:30 pm

Dinner & Program

6:30 pm

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



from The Committee of 100