



THE COMMITTEE OF 100

FYI

September 9, 2016

Wilmington Development Review Reform Update

We reported in our [August newsletter](#) that The Committee of 100 has been engaged with the City of Wilmington in updating its Comprehensive Plan.

Our Wilmington Working Group, comprised of leaders from the development, banking, law, construction, real estate, and architecture/engineering communities, presented recommendations to the City on a number of key issues ranging from the need for a clearly enunciated neighborhood revitalization strategy, to City staff qualifications and attitude, and significant reforms in the City's permitting process. The Wilmington Working Group stressed that the permitting process must be made transparent, consistent and predictable so that developers have the information and confidence to invest in the City.

This week, the City of Wilmington announced an important step in reform of the development review process. A new online web page was launched that can be used to start the application process for permits and licenses, as well as download documents for building or reconstruction projects.

Committee of 100 member **Corporation Service Company (CSC)** was instrumental in providing expertise and staff resources to digitize the previously paper-based forms, making this online information center possible.

City of Wilmington Announces One-Stop Online Guide to the City Development Review Process

Maneuvering through the City of Wilmington's development review process to obtain permits, licenses and information for residential and business construction and development projects has become much easier.

Mayor Dennis P. Williams joined with Wilmington City Council President Theo Gregory and several City Departments to announce a new online information web page where residents and business owners can start the application process for permits and licenses and download documents for home projects as well for major building or reconstruction projects around the City.

"The new online information center marks the beginning of an ongoing effort to reform the City's development review process," said Mayor Williams. "The Administration has listened to comments from property owners, developers and contractors of all types and has also **opened an important partnership with the Committee of 100 business organization to promote responsible economic development and address issues that affect our City's economic health.**"

Mayor Williams said the first phase of the reform process has produced a dedicated page on the City's website (www.WilmingtonDE.gov/developmentreview) where developers of residential and business projects can find a complete rundown of the development review process, download fillable PDF forms, receive explanations of laws and permits, and review a Frequently Asked Questions section.

City Departments that are helping to reform the review process are Licenses and Inspections, Planning and Development, Public Works, Law and the Fire Marshal's Office.

The path to this first phase of development review process reform began earlier in the Williams' administration when the City researched how cities of similar size in this region managed their development review processes. Planning and Development Director Leonard Sophrin became aware of the extensive work being done in Philadelphia by Karen Black of May 8 Consulting in conjunction with the Building Industry Association of Philadelphia.

"Philadelphia successfully transformed its city government from a convoluted and frustrating process to one where developers were encouraged and welcomed into the process, and given guidance during each step of their particular project," said Sophrin. "This effort resulted in properly reviewed projects that were approved in a timely manner which supported the City's goal of welcoming new business and residential projects, large and small."

"I have often said that Wilmington is open for business and the desire for more investment here has to be met with clear transparent rules for how things will be done," said Mayor Williams. "Public and private partners and our city leadership team have been busy developing a more streamlined development process to provide more clarity and information than ever before. This is only the first step toward a bigger picture that will include code reform and additional technological supports."

[Read the full City of Wilmington news release](#)

September 20th Dinner Meeting will Feature FinTech Program

Financial technology — FinTech — is at the start of disrupting the financial services industry. Originally referring to computer technology applied to the back-end of established financial institutions, FinTech now describes a broad range of technological innovations in personal and commercial finance.

This new wave of disruptive innovation represents a huge threat to the traditional model of a bank. But it also creates enormous opportunities for internal innovations and strategic partnerships between established firms and technology start-ups. Both increasingly acknowledge that the winners will be those that embrace FinTech and collaborate to create successful partnerships.

FinTech pioneer **Arkadi Kuhlmann** of Zenbanx and WSFS Executive Vice President **Rick Wright** will join us to talk about their partnership, and share insights on how FinTech is impacting the finance industry, and the Delaware workforce and economy.

[Register for September 20, 2016 Dinner Meeting](#)

Cocktails & Networking: 5:30 pm

Dinner & Program: 6:30 pm

Save on 2016-2017 Dinner Meetings and Member Receptions

Members have the opportunity to save time and money by prepaying for the new Committee of 100 meeting season. The **Prepayment Plan** includes Dinner Meetings in September and November 2016, and January and March 2017, plus the Annual Barbecue in June 2017. NOTE: The Committee of 100's Annual Auction in December 2016 and a special 50th Anniversary celebration we are planning for May 2017 are not included.

The popular Member Receptions continue! Every other month (October 2016 and February and April 2017), we will host an extended Member Reception with light hors d'oeuvres and cash bar, with one drink ticket included with registration.

If you pay monthly, 4 Dinners Meetings (\$46 each) and 3 Member Receptions (\$25 each) plus the June BBQ (\$50) will total \$309. By taking advantage of the **Prepayment Plan**, your cost for the same 8 events is only \$284, **a savings of \$25, or attendance at one Member Reception free!** Hurry - offer ends on September 16th!

[Sign up today for the convenient 2016-17 Prepayment Plan!](#)

Save the Date for our Annual Holiday Auction!

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Hotel DuPont Gold Ballroom



Contact Jennifer Kmiec at 302-654-6115 or via [email](#) for information about Annual Holiday Auction Sponsorship opportunities!