

NEFRC

Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

March 2012

NEFRC Hosts DEO Workshop

The Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) hosted a regional Stakeholder Forum for the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) on Friday, March 30th at UNF's University Center. The workshop was held to get input from stakeholders in the Northeast Florida Region as DEO begins to develop its 5-Year Strategic Plan for Economic Development. Following a video welcome from Governor Rick Scott, Secretary of Commerce Gray Swope, addressed the participants and stressed the importance and value of their input. Following the welcomes and presentations by DEO staff, the nearly 80 participants broke into six groups for facilitated discussions. The six groups were structured around the Florida Chamber of Commerce's Six Pillars of the Future of Florida's Economy. The Six Pillars are Talent Supply & Education, Innovation & Economic Development, Infrastructure & Growth Leadership, Business Climate & Competitiveness, Civic & Governance Systems, and Quality of Life & Quality Places.



Gray Swope Secretary of Commerce



*Jerry Mallot, President
JAXUSA Partnership*

Following the facilitated discussions the stakeholders reassembled to receive presentations on the results from the break-out sessions and to vote on the strategies resulting from those sessions. To follow the work of DEO go to their website at www.floridajobs.org and click on "5-Year Strategic Direction" icon. Here you can find background information as well as the presentations used at the forums. For more information, contact Brian Teeple at 904-279-0880.



L to R: Major General Emmitt Titshaw, Florida National Guard Adjutant General; Stephanie Kopelousos, Clay County Manager; Jeff Sheffield, NFTP Executive Director; David Kaufman, JaxPort Senior Director of Planning and Properties



L to R: Alex McCoy, Vice President of Economic Development Putnam County Chamber of Commerce; Linda Myers, Myers Resources; Darryl Register, Executive Director Baker County Chamber of Commerce; Steve Rieck, Executive Director, Nassau County Economic Development Board

Council Welcomes New Member

Jacksonville City Council Member Kimberly Daniels has been appointed to the Northeast Florida Regional Council to represent the City of Jacksonville and Duval County. Council Member Daniels is an At-Large Member of the City Council. Welcome Council Member Daniels.



Regional Panel Presents

On March 6, 2012, a panel of regional leaders presented information about regional cooperation and coordination to a meeting of Commercial Real Estate Women (CREW). Panelists included Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) Board Member Elaine Brown who spoke about regional activities from Reality Check First Coast to the First Coast Vision. Ms. Brown was followed by Bob Rhodes, Regional Community Institute Past-Chair and a Member of the Regional Transportation Study Commission, who talked about the work of the Commission. Cathy Chambers outlined the work of Innovate Northeast Florida, a joint project of the JAXUSA Partnership and the NEFRC, aimed at examining market niches and developing implementation strategies for economic development in Northeast Florida. Finally, the Chair of the Northeast Florida League of Cities, Baldwin Mayor Stan Totman, talked about the work of the League as well as what regional coordination and cooperation means to local government. The panel was moderated by NEFRC CEO Brian Teeple. For more information, contact Brian Teeple at 904-279-0880.

Innovate Northeast Florida Roll-Out

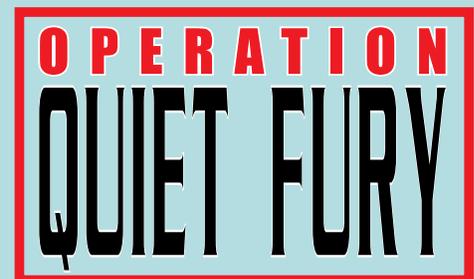
The Region's new economic development initiative, Innovate Northeast Florida, a joint project between JAXUSA Partnership and the Northeast Florida Regional Council is set to be unveiled on April 19th. The event will be at the Cummer Museum of Arts and Gardens from 4 to 6:30 p.m. Already completed is the SWOT analysis and the Target Sub-Cluster Definition Report. At the event, specific implementation plans will be presented in the areas of community development, workforce development, business development and marketing tactics for each sub-cluster. Also at the event, the winners of the JAX Boldest contest will be announced. JAX Boldest is a Regional contest dedicated to identifying the boldest companies, non-profits and projects of 2011. Visit www.innovatenortheastflorida.com to follow this project. For more information, contact Brian Teeple at 904-279-0880.

Healthy Communities

The Regional Leadership Academy met on March 14, 2012 to learn about "Healthy Communities". NEFRC Board Members Commissioner Bill Leary and Councilmember Matt Schellenberg joined Atlantic Beach Commissioner Maria Marks on a panel to discuss the health of democracy in the Region. As can be imagined, it was an informative presentation, followed by a lively discussion. The afternoon session addressed the importance of "place" in the health of the Region. RCI member Nikole Helvey from the Health Planning Council of Northeast Florida led the group in a review of the current state of health in the Region and a discussion of the strategies that the class thought might be effective in Northeast Florida. For a copy of their suggestions or more information, contact Ed Lehman at 904-279-0885 x130

Operation Quiet Fury

On Monday, March 19th, Operation Quiet Fury was held at Camp Blanding in Clay County. This was a full scale response exercise held in partnership with Clay County, the National Guard and LEPC District IV. The Northeast Florida Regional Council designed, implemented and staffed the exercise. This exercise included a wide range of participants and focused on determining the effectiveness of the coordination between multiple entities. Over 140 players were on site at Camp Blanding, while the Clay County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) also participated with nearly 40 players. The Clay County Sheriff's Office played a major part, acting as incident command of the scene. The County's SWAT team, Haz Mat team, Fire Rescue departments and EMS supported the exercise. Other SWAT teams (Jacksonville and St. Johns County) and the JSO Bomb Squad also participated.



The scenario of the exercise focused on multiple events across Camp Blanding. There were shootings and kidnappings by terrorists, bombs devastating the front gate with an associated hazardous materials incident, hostage negotiations and interrogations and ultimately a SWAT component. The number of events required a joint response between Clay County agencies and the National Guard on base. The use of incident command was evaluated as was the coordination of the response effort between Clay County and the National Guard Military Police at Camp Blanding. Overall the exercise was a success. A wide range of participants worked hard to accomplish the tasks set out for them at the start of the day. Strengths and weaknesses were identified by all players and will serve to improve the safety of Camp Blanding and Clay County. For more information, contact Jeffrey Alexander at 904-279-0885 x134