



# City Council Memorandum

*City of Arts & Innovation*

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**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL** **DATE: MAY 4, 2021**

**FROM: COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT** **WARDS: ALL**

**SUBJECT: PRESENTATION ON REGIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, SERVICES AND FUTURE WORKFORCE PROJECTIONS BY LESLIE TRAINOR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND CARRIE HARMON, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY HOMELESS PREVENTION AND WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS DEPARTMENT**

**ISSUE:**

Receive and file a presentation on regional Workforce Development programs, services, and future regional workforce projections by Leslie Trainor, Deputy Director of Riverside County Workforce Development and Carrie Harmon, Assistant Director of Riverside County Homeless Prevention and Workforce Solutions Department.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the City Council receives and files a presentation on regional Workforce Development programs, services, and future regional workforce projections by Leslie Trainor, Deputy Director of Riverside County Workforce Development and Carrie Harmon, Assistant Director of Riverside County Homeless Prevention and Workforce Solutions Department.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Riverside County Workforce Development Board (WDB) provides oversight for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) programs in the County of Riverside. The WDB acts as a catalyst to provide seamless services among various workforce programs and provides community leadership around workforce issues. The WDB manages Riverside County's Workforce Development Centers, including the location in the City of Riverside, and carries out its mission through five critical components:

1. As Conveners - Bringing together business, labor, education, and economic development to focus on community workforce issues;
2. Providing Workforce Analysis - Developing, disseminating, and understanding current labor market and economic information and trends;
3. As Brokers - Bringing together systems to solve common problems or broker new relationships with businesses and workers;
4. Providing a United Community Voice - Advocating for the importance of workforce policy and providing perspectives about the need for skilled workers; and
5. As Capacity Builders - Enhancing the region's ability to meet the workforce needs of local employers.

Leslie Trainor was hired as the Deputy Director of Riverside County Workforce Development in 2018. Prior to that, Leslie served as an independent contractor to the County of Riverside, creating, operationalizing and administrating California 501(c)(3) non-profits, public benefit corporations affiliated with the Housing Authority of the County of Riverside Economic Development Agency's Workforce Development Division, The Riverside County Library System and the March Air Reserve Base. She received a PhD in Organizational Psychology from Claremont Graduate University and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from California State University, San Bernardino.

Carrie Harmon currently serves as the Assistant Director of Riverside County Homeless Prevention and Workforce Solutions Department. As Assistant Director, she is responsible for managing the daily operations of the Housing Authority, Workforce Development, Community Development, the Continuum of Care and Community Action Partnership. During the pandemic, Ms. Harmon has served in the Riverside County Emergency Operations Center where she oversees Project Roomkey, an emergency housing program to protect vulnerable homeless residents from transmitting COVID-19. She has a Bachelor's in English and Literature from the University of California, Riverside and studied Business Administration and Management at California State University, San Bernardino.

**DISCUSSION:**

City Council has previously recognized that a strong, diverse workforce is critical to an equitable and prosperous future for all; and has identified workforce development initiatives among the City's Strategic Priorities for economic prosperity. The Riverside County Workforce Development Board is a critical partner in providing expertise and support for Riverside's Workforce goals now and in the future. The presentation offers a regional focus on the workforce development ecosystem. Ms. Trainor and Ms. Harmon will cover data and analysis related to the effects of the pandemic and strategies for recovery. Additionally, they will highlight emerging workforce sectors within the region and share information on WDB programs and services to support current and future workforce needs.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Prepared by: David Welch, Community & Economic Development Director  
Certified as to availability of funds: Edward Enriquez, Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer  
Approved by: Rafael Guzman, Assistant City Manager  
Approved as to form: Kristi J. Smith, Interim City Attorney

Attachment: Presentation