



THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

Transcript: Empowered Cities: A Roadmap to Inclusion for All

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00:00:17.279 --> 00:00:18.690

David Burns: Right Tom we have everyone so.

2

00:00:18.780 --> 00:00:19.920

yeah and kick us off hey.

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00:00:21.120 --> 00:00:29.070

Tom Cochran: Good afternoon, everyone i'm Tom Cochran the CEO and executive director of the one and only United States conference of.

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00:00:29.070 --> 00:00:30.450

Tom Cochran: mayors and.

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00:00:31.110 --> 00:00:40.680

Tom Cochran: I just want to thank you for being with us today, for this very important webinar empowered cities and roadmap to inclusion or all.

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00:00:41.370 --> 00:00:49.650

Tom Cochran: i'm pleased to join for today's session by the the great Mayor of New York bill de blasio and the Mayor of Chicago laurie lightfoot.

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00:00:50.520 --> 00:01:02.310

Tom Cochran: We will be hearing from each of them about that efforts to ensure that people with disabilities have access to resources and support they need to.

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00:01:02.910 --> 00:01:14.670

Tom Cochran: thrive in their cities Kobe 19 has revealed striking disparities in outcomes for different groups and communities in the United States of America.

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00:01:15.750 --> 00:01:22.530

Tom Cochran: The divide that already existed prior to the pandemic has been exacerbated for women.

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00:01:23.580 --> 00:01:34.020

Tom Cochran: People of color individuals this I just abilities and other groups that have historically been more to those eyes in United States.

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00:01:34.860 --> 00:01:46.950

Tom Cochran: As we emerged from this pandemic there never has been more important time for mayors to lead an effort to strengthen diversity equity inclusion for all right now.

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00:01:48.090 --> 00:01:56.070

Tom Cochran: So i'd like to turn it over to the great Mayor of the city of New York man de blasio.

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00:01:56.640 --> 00:02:04.230

Tom Cochran: New York City was a founding member, along with Chicago for this great organization United States conference of Mayors.

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00:02:04.590 --> 00:02:17.700

Tom Cochran: And mayor de blasio will be deleting out discussion of the empowered citizen initiatives that's a five city effort, ladies and gentlemen, to create a roadmap for inclusion for all we had to bless you.

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00:02:19.200 --> 00:02:32.220

Mayor Bill de Blasio: Thank you so much, Tom and Tom I want to thank you and your whole team at the conference of mayors, we have all needed each other, this year, and last year in ways we could not even imagine.

16

00:02:33.420 --> 00:02:33.870

Mayor Bill de Blasio: It.

17

00:02:34.890 --> 00:02:36.630

Mayor Bill de Blasio: is so clear to me.

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00:02:37.680 --> 00:02:38.640

Mayor Bill de Blasio: That mayor's.

19

00:02:39.840 --> 00:02:45.780

Mayor Bill de Blasio: wouldn't have gotten through and wouldn't have a lot of serve our people if it wasn't for the help we got from each other.

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00:02:46.800 --> 00:02:58.980

Mayor Bill de Blasio: And the conference of mayors really wasn't an anchor for us, so thank you Tom I know you believe in this organization deeply, but I think this was one of its finest hours, so thank you very much for your leadership.

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00:03:00.270 --> 00:03:03.600

Mayor Bill de Blasio: I want to welcome everyone, this is an important session.

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00:03:04.740 --> 00:03:09.150

Mayor Bill de Blasio: and one where I think we can really seize the moment.

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00:03:10.590 --> 00:03:17.190

Mayor Bill de Blasio: Because we have a moment of transformation, that is, I think, going to be the greatest of our lifetimes.

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00:03:18.300 --> 00:03:18.960

Mayor Bill de Blasio: I.

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00:03:20.280 --> 00:03:33.030

Mayor Bill de Blasio: will in a moment i've been it's been suggested to me it's helpful for some of the folks participating to hear a physical description so i'm going to do that in a moment, introduce my myself with a little narrative but.

26

00:03:34.050 --> 00:03:38.160

Mayor Bill de Blasio: I want to just say about this moment in history first.

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00:03:40.260 --> 00:03:46.680

Mayor Bill de Blasio: I don't know about all of you and the conversations you've had with your family members, particularly the elders in your family.

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00:03:48.120 --> 00:03:56.520

Mayor Bill de Blasio: But I remember wise growing up hearing stories from folks who went through the Great Depression and went through World War Two.

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00:03:57.930 --> 00:04:04.650

Mayor Bill de Blasio: And the particular reverence they had, for the work of the New Deal and Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

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00:04:06.210 --> 00:04:14.760

Mayor Bill de Blasio: And what I constantly heard was recognition that they had lived through a moment in history where all things were possible.

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00:04:15.870 --> 00:04:19.050

Mayor Bill de Blasio: And there was incredible sense of purpose and camaraderie.

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00:04:20.670 --> 00:04:29.250

Mayor Bill de Blasio: And then, honestly, some of my family admitted to me that, after those times they they sought that spirit again and didn't always experience it.

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00:04:30.570 --> 00:04:32.730

Mayor Bill de Blasio: And we're in a moment, now.

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00:04:34.170 --> 00:04:38.940

Mayor Bill de Blasio: The forged in crisis, just like the new deal was forged in the Great Depression.

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00:04:40.560 --> 00:04:52.950

Mayor Bill de Blasio: What a moment for profound transformation a once in a lifetime opportunity if if you ever wondered about those previous generations who did amazing things were literally in that moment right now.

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00:04:54.000 --> 00:05:01.980

Mayor Bill de Blasio: And the challenge for us is to recognize it it's it's strange to know when you're in a historical moment it's kind of counterintuitive.

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00:05:03.600 --> 00:05:09.030

Mayor Bill de Blasio: History supposed to tell you what you did later on, but, but we can see the outline so clearly right now.

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00:05:10.500 --> 00:05:12.540

Mayor Bill de Blasio: We happen to be leaders at this moment.

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00:05:14.100 --> 00:05:21.780

Mayor Bill de Blasio: there's an entirely new consciousness as result of everything that happened coven and the social movements that have come out of it.

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00:05:23.160 --> 00:05:30.240

Mayor Bill de Blasio: And there's also for a shining moment resources available to foster tremendous change.

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00:05:31.260 --> 00:05:38.190

Mayor Bill de Blasio: This is this year, next year, maybe longer maybe not but the time is now.

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00:05:39.270 --> 00:05:45.210

Mayor Bill de Blasio: And that certainly refers to everything we have to do for social justice racial justice.

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00:05:46.470 --> 00:05:48.390

Mayor Bill de Blasio: But also justice for people with disabilities.

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00:05:50.400 --> 00:06:00.630

Mayor Bill de Blasio: As I said, i'll do a quick description so again, my name is bill de blasio I have the honor of being Mayor of New York City for one more year my eighth year and office.

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00:06:01.650 --> 00:06:05.220

Mayor Bill de Blasio: I happen to be very tall six foot five and a half.

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00:06:06.270 --> 00:06:24.060

Mayor Bill de Blasio: i'm a white man with brown eyes, salt and pepper hair and I do not wear glasses and today wearing a Gray suit we will light blue shirt navy blue tie and light blue diagonal stripes.

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00:06:25.170 --> 00:06:28.800

Mayor Bill de Blasio: i'm here in City Hall in New York City what's called our governor's room.

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00:06:30.720 --> 00:06:36.480

Mayor Bill de Blasio: And behind me, we have alternating American and New York City flags as the backdrop.

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00:06:38.460 --> 00:06:54.780

Mayor Bill de Blasio: And I want to tell you I appreciate all my colleagues, but I have a special bond with mayor lori lightfoot of Chicago because, as we used to say when I was growing up, she tells it like it is.

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00:06:55.890 --> 00:07:11.250

Mayor Bill de Blasio: which I find both endearing and necessary at this moment in history, and you will have the honor of hearing from first shortly, and I think she's dealing with one of the most challenging situations in America but doing it in a way that will be transformative.

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00:07:12.630 --> 00:07:18.210

Mayor Bill de Blasio: No matter how much is thrown at you lori I don't know where you I don't know what you eat for breakfast but keep eating it.

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00:07:21.120 --> 00:07:24.210

Mayor Bill de Blasio: Because you're always finding a way to make an impact, which I appreciate.

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00:07:25.350 --> 00:07:25.950

Mayor Bill de Blasio: and

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00:07:27.030 --> 00:07:29.430

Mayor Bill de Blasio: After I say my remarks i'm going to turn.

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00:07:31.710 --> 00:07:34.380

Mayor Bill de Blasio: off also after after mayor lightfoot speaks.

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00:07:35.490 --> 00:07:49.260

Mayor Bill de Blasio: To someone who's done amazing work here in New York City our Commissioner, Victor kalisa and i'll i'll introduce him at the time, and just hearing his energy is always a treat and an inspiration.

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00:07:51.210 --> 00:07:52.650

Mayor Bill de Blasio: But here's what i'll say quickly.

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00:07:53.670 --> 00:07:57.660

Mayor Bill de Blasio: And no one on this gathering needs to be convinced about disparities.

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00:07:58.920 --> 00:08:00.720

Mayor Bill de Blasio: But we can at least say the cover it.

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00:08:01.920 --> 00:08:15.660

Mayor Bill de Blasio: was a wake up call a different kind of wake up call for this nation, I think it's fair to say, a lot of people who didn't like to talk about the disparities now either understand them better or have to talk about.

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00:08:17.280 --> 00:08:26.040

Mayor Bill de Blasio: And some who recognize them but didn't get motivated to act are now in the fray trying to make things different and better.

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00:08:27.090 --> 00:08:30.450

Mayor Bill de Blasio: So this is a great moment to try new things.

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00:08:31.710 --> 00:08:34.650

Mayor Bill de Blasio: and push the envelope see how far we can get.

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00:08:36.840 --> 00:08:40.500

Mayor Bill de Blasio: Here in this city we're course focused on recovery.

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00:08:52.890 --> 00:08:53.400

Tom Cochran: Hello.

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00:08:54.570 --> 00:08:55.950

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: I think screen.

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00:08:58.110 --> 00:09:00.180

David Burns: I believe this connection is frozen.

68

00:09:04.410 --> 00:09:08.730

David Burns: If he's not coming back, maybe mayor lightfoot we can go to your remarks.

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00:09:12.960 --> 00:09:22.410

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: I follow Tom Cochrane sleep timer would you like to do angry he just took off and maybe he's coming Oh, we give it a second seat build Dallas back in.

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00:09:23.010 --> 00:09:23.790

David Burns: yep sounds good.

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00:09:26.010 --> 00:09:28.080

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: But if not i'm happy to hear he comes.

72

00:09:28.740 --> 00:09:29.820

David Burns: he's coming back on.

73

00:09:30.390 --> 00:09:32.370

Tom Cochran: periscope come back let's wait for him.

74

00:09:36.540 --> 00:09:37.110

Tom Cochran: Hello.

75

00:09:40.350 --> 00:09:42.120

David Burns: he's connecting good.

76

00:09:43.860 --> 00:09:47.550

Tom Cochran: stuff happens in this digital gym where we live in.

77

00:09:48.720 --> 00:09:49.800

Tom Cochran: Thank you mayor lightfoot.

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00:09:56.700 --> 00:09:57.960

Tom Cochran: So how we doing bergey.

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00:10:01.230 --> 00:10:05.640

David Burns: we're still waiting for them to connect and he does not have as a video or audio connected yet.

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00:10:08.190 --> 00:10:09.510

Tom Cochran: New York staff on the line.

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00:10:16.500 --> 00:10:18.240

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: Do you want me to go ahead and jump in Tom.

82

00:10:18.510 --> 00:10:20.010

Tom Cochran: I think we might I mean.

83

00:10:21.540 --> 00:10:24.420

Ariana Caplan: This is ariana from New York City, if you could move to mayor lightfoot.

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00:10:24.990 --> 00:10:25.890

Tom Cochran: Thank you very much.

85

00:10:26.370 --> 00:10:28.920

Tom Cochran: Thank you mayor lightfoot may have Chicago.

86

00:10:30.270 --> 00:10:41.700

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: Alright well good afternoon everyone always great to be in a gathering of a friends, but in more importantly, people who are committed to a social justice and really focusing on.

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00:10:42.090 --> 00:10:57.210

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: Issues of equity, I am the mayor of the great city of Chicago i'm a black woman, I also a member of the LGBT Q community, and I am not unlike my friend bill de blasio i'm five one.

88

00:10:58.140 --> 00:11:17.400

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: We always make a study, in contrast, when when bill and I are together but we're like minded on a number of other things, what he finished my description i'm wearing a a Gray and black stripes suit with a blouse i'm wearing glasses, I have a short natural haircut and.

89

00:11:18.480 --> 00:11:23.400

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: bill said his hair salt and pepper i'm going to tell the truth, and say now mine is mostly Gray.

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00:11:24.780 --> 00:11:28.440

Tom Cochran: I feel like i'm at the Oscars and we're talking about what everybody's wearing today.

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00:11:30.150 --> 00:11:40.200

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: that's true that's true so i'm African city Chicago i'm thrilled to be a partner with the empowered Cities initiative and working closely with mayor de Blasio and others.

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00:11:41.220 --> 00:11:56.130

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: Through our network of national leaders on municipal a disability issues and address why sandy equity issues that have really been exacerbated by Colin and I just want to Center my remarks in personal some of you know.

93

00:11:57.180 --> 00:12:04.620

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: My father was a deaf man he lost his hearing when he was in his early 20s following and lengthy.

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00:12:05.130 --> 00:12:18.450

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: period of illness, where doctors had given him up for dead and told my mom that she shouldn't waste money on medicine, so this is in the 1950s, before I was born my entire life.

95

00:12:19.020 --> 00:12:28.530

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: Not only did my father work, his tail off in our working class family holding two and three jobs to keep us afloat, but I saw him struggle.

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00:12:28.920 --> 00:12:41.250

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: struggle, not only to fit in any outside hearing world but struggle, even within our own family circle within our church, because, as he was coming up and then learning to live with his disability.

97

00:12:41.670 --> 00:12:51.060

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: He was not taught sign language he read lips, and we wrote lots and lots of notes and I cherish the notebooks that i've saved from our conversations over the years.

98

00:12:51.360 --> 00:13:02.250

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: But as a black man with a high school degree growing up in the racist Jim crow South and then losing his hearing at such an early age in the 1950s.

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00:13:02.760 --> 00:13:15.420

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: his whole life was about struggle and about trying to fit in and absolutely my father's struggle has fueled me and my desire to write some historic wrongs in my time as man.

100

00:13:16.020 --> 00:13:34.260

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: And as bill said and he's white This is truly in my mind, a key inflection moment for a number of things thinking about the life that we want to build for residents in our cities going forward we didn't just push pause on 2019.

101

00:13:34.830 --> 00:13:51.960

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: We change and had to pivot and adapt to a new life, a new sense of sensibilities and One of those is not shy away from taking on the tough challenges that we all need to face and part of that has to be making sure the members of.

102

00:13:52.260 --> 00:14:09.000

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: The disability Community have multiple seats at the table of power not peeking into the room and hoping that somebody hears their cry but actually having a real seat at the table and i'm proud to.

103

00:14:10.110 --> 00:14:19.890

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: acknowledge Rachel arfa, who is the head of our mayor's office with for people with disabilities she's I don't even think he had a year in the job.

104

00:14:20.430 --> 00:14:28.260

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: But it's challenging all of us to think folder and bigger about a number of things that we should be doing, not only to be compliant.

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00:14:28.530 --> 00:14:43.830

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: With federal law, but to make sure that when we talk about equity the equity equation also includes people with disabilities, not just race, not just ethnicity, are not just income status and a lot of other things that.

106

00:14:44.670 --> 00:14:56.760

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: Are the conversation at the national level, but also making sure that we are focused on everyone in our city, who has a range of different disabilities and.

107

00:14:57.060 --> 00:15:08.400

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: living up to our obligation to make sure that they too are able to realize their God given talents and so I think right Rachel and her team more determine.

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00:15:08.820 --> 00:15:15.960

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: who's also been a long time stalwart of that office, let me talk to you a little bit about what we're trying to do here in Chicago.

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00:15:16.770 --> 00:15:34.980

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: You can really look across our city and see the work of we call it mo P, the mayor's office for people with disabilities are train stations bus stations intersection our housing policies, public services, employee rights and minimum wage, and especially our emergency preparedness.

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00:15:36.090 --> 00:15:47.310

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: response recovery at our vaccines strategies Rachel her team have put their imprint on all the things that we're doing that are fun facing serving Members of.

111

00:15:47.640 --> 00:15:56.670

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: The public and making sure that the disability community is not excluded from the recovery and respond to coven.

112

00:15:57.510 --> 00:16:02.520

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: But also the economic recovery that is going to fuel our cities going forward.

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00:16:03.180 --> 00:16:18.960

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: Because of our office we are able and more work to do, but we're creating a safer and more accessible, a Chicago and we intend to take full advantage of the opportunities that a program and initiative like empowered cities.

114

00:16:20.340 --> 00:16:28.290

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: gives us along with others mayors and cities across the country and built into your back on, let me.

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00:16:28.680 --> 00:16:35.220

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: say publicly i'm very proud of the work that you've done i've been inspired from the minute.

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00:16:35.580 --> 00:16:48.930

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: You ran and really talking about and raising levels of consciousness around equity and inclusion that i've never heard mayor's talk about before so God bless you for everything you've done New York is absolutely the better.

117

00:16:49.320 --> 00:16:59.820

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: For it, because your leadership, your focus on the things that I think really empower people, and I want to thank you for launching this important initiative we got one more year.

118

00:17:00.570 --> 00:17:12.360

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: As my as mayor's together and I intend to make sure that I do my part to make sure that your legacy is long lasting because you've laid the foundation on which many of us.

119

00:17:12.780 --> 00:17:29.310

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: have created programs and initiatives and we're always looking to what New York is doing, because of you and your team and your leadership, and in the Disability Rights space that is certainly true, so let me just talk about a couple of the other things, and then our year the floor.

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00:17:30.840 --> 00:17:40.410

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: I want to say that because of the grant that we were able to obtain from this initiative we've been able to do a number of things and I want to talk about those.

121

00:17:41.550 --> 00:17:48.660

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: First, encouraging economic development through entrepreneurship that's critically important being able to.

122

00:17:49.290 --> 00:17:56.070

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: chart your own future and making sure that folks with disabilities are able to participate.

123

00:17:56.520 --> 00:18:05.400

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: In the entrepreneurial class in our city is very important, promoting comprehensive job training and placement services, facilitating greater communication.

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00:18:06.390 --> 00:18:14.610

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: With students in higher education and examining the city of Chicago policies that may promote or inhibit.

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00:18:15.360 --> 00:18:23.880

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: People with disabilities and we've been doing a top to bottom review of those issues and, again, led by our great Commissioner Rachel Arfa.

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00:18:24.270 --> 00:18:35.430

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: And further our mayor's office of people with disabilities allows us to look city wide and find ways to integrate new policies with other city departments and initiatives.

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00:18:36.060 --> 00:18:50.190

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: For example, mo P, is working very closely with our department of business affairs and consumer protection and our department of procurement services to hold webinars and virtual outreach sessions on certification.

128

00:18:50.550 --> 00:18:56.850

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: For business enterprise programs for people with disabilities, this is a critical part of our recovery.

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00:18:57.600 --> 00:19:13.170

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: This is historically had very low participation, due to the lack of awareness and incentives to business owners we're changing that around mo P is also helping you expand access and improved career pathways as it works with our city colleges.

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00:19:14.370 --> 00:19:20.730

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: In our public schools to help foster better communication and eliminate barriers for transition.

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00:19:21.270 --> 00:19:29.340

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: Age students with disabilities, and on top of that mo P, is working with our first ever office of equity and racial justice.

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00:19:29.550 --> 00:19:40.740

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: And our department of human resources to implement a city resource groups, one of the first difference of his kind to focus on employees with disabilities are allies in the disabled community.

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00:19:41.340 --> 00:19:47.490

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: All of these efforts mean we are creating strong information campaign to build trust and encourage.

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00:19:47.760 --> 00:19:57.960

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: People across a lot of different city departments and also outside of city department to join forces with us to build a much more inclusive workplace.

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00:19:58.470 --> 00:20:06.270

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: These are some of the things that we are doing on here in Chicago fueled and excited by this initiative.

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00:20:06.660 --> 00:20:15.990

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: started by mayor de blasio and again it's just our great honor to be in partnership with you, and it really thinking creatively about ways that we can push and do more.

137

00:20:16.260 --> 00:20:24.480

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: and make sure that people living with disabilities or whether it's hearing whether it's visual whether it's physical or combination of many things.

138

00:20:24.750 --> 00:20:37.860

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: That we are creating an environment in the city of Chicago where people can live rich fulfilled lives and really, as I said, fulfill their God given talents and breaking down the barriers that we've.

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00:20:38.070 --> 00:20:46.170

Mayor Lori Lightfoot: are directed or otherwise allowed to exist, so i'm proud of the work that we're doing and proud to be in partnership with all of you, so thank you.

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00:20:53.940 --> 00:20:54.210

Mayor Bill de Blasio: I get.

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00:20:54.570 --> 00:20:55.380

Tom Cochran: You back on.

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00:20:55.440 --> 00:20:58.230

Mayor Bill de Blasio: yeah i'm back on, and I want to say to.

143

00:20:59.520 --> 00:21:10.800

Mayor Bill de Blasio: mayor lori lightfoot first of all i'm going to update my physical description by saying, based on the very, very kind of things you said about me and my team that I am now a white man who is blushing.

144

00:21:11.610 --> 00:21:21.420

Mayor Bill de Blasio: So thank you, you are, you were extremely kind what you said and, and I want to return the points in the favor and say just this is all about.

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00:21:22.110 --> 00:21:29.400

Mayor Bill de Blasio: How we help each other find what's possible and that's been part of what's amazing in general about the work of Mayors.

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00:21:30.000 --> 00:21:41.220

Mayor Bill de Blasio: we're always inspiring each other we're always you know we don't steal ideas from each other, we gently borrow them and and it's been a wonderful partnership with you, and yes we're going to make it a great year.

147

00:21:42.390 --> 00:21:45.360

Mayor Bill de Blasio: But i'll just pick up where I was before i'm sorry I got cut off.

148

00:21:47.400 --> 00:22:02.610

Mayor Bill de Blasio: I was just just amplifying a phrase that we use around here, and we really try to use it to ground us, which is we talk about our recovery from coven and we say a recovery for all of us, because we do not want a mistake that from a trip for a traditional recovery.

149

00:22:03.960 --> 00:22:05.370

Mayor Bill de Blasio: Laura you'll appreciate when.

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00:22:06.540 --> 00:22:22.590

Mayor Bill de Blasio: When the pandemic first hit there were some folks let's just gently call them members of the larger business community, who had a very particular concept for whatever recovery was and shockingly that recovery seem to refer a quite a bit to the larger business.

151

00:22:23.610 --> 00:22:28.770

Mayor Bill de Blasio: So we said no wait a minute recovery has to reach everyone.

152

00:22:29.790 --> 00:22:40.710

Mayor Bill de Blasio: It has to address the inequalities that been laid bare and it also has to be transformative because it is a reset it should not be hey let's just get that status quo right back in place, it has to be a sense of.

153

00:22:41.280 --> 00:22:51.480

Mayor Bill de Blasio: We will go much farther than where we were before the crisis, opening the door to something transformative so we say recovery for all of us to keep us centered on that notion.

154

00:22:52.890 --> 00:22:54.600

Mayor Bill de Blasio: And, as we all work together.

155

00:22:56.370 --> 00:23:07.230

Mayor Bill de Blasio: we'll constantly want to ask the question, what is the next thing we can do, and I appreciate it, I could hear in lori's voice back that constant searching and I think this is again part of why you've been really.

156

00:23:07.770 --> 00:23:12.360

Mayor Bill de Blasio: Successful and inspiring people, because everyone can hear you're searching for the next way to do good.

157

00:23:13.380 --> 00:23:15.180

Mayor Bill de Blasio: I would say, from New York state perspective.

158

00:23:16.350 --> 00:23:27.630

Mayor Bill de Blasio: we've certainly learned by you know, taking the empowered nyc approach and first as a pilot program and trying it and seeing how far we could go with it we found something very powerful.

159

00:23:28.740 --> 00:23:38.610

Mayor Bill de Blasio: First, that we could just reach a tremendous number of people to date over 26,000 people that we've been able to have some impact on through this approach.

160

00:23:39.780 --> 00:23:48.000

Mayor Bill de Blasio: specifically in the area, jobs are nyc at work program reached hundreds of people and gotten them quality employment.

161

00:23:49.470 --> 00:23:56.580

Mayor Bill de Blasio: For a lot of other people it's helped with affordable housing, where we have an important preference system related to folks with disabilities.

162

00:23:57.660 --> 00:24:11.100

Mayor Bill de Blasio: it's been healthcare, especially at this moment in history homecare different pieces we've been able to help connect people to I really try and constantly work on how we made the information accessible and how we make it easy for people to connect.

163

00:24:12.630 --> 00:24:22.590

Mayor Bill de Blasio: Also, in terms of employment, I think all of us understand this, but we got to keep reminding ourselves that you know, the best way to model for the private sector.

164

00:24:23.820 --> 00:24:40.530

Mayor Bill de Blasio: that they should be more aggressive and inclusive in hiring people with disabilities, the best way to achieve that is to model good

behavior in the public sector and do the hiring ourselves, and you know we are the largest employer in this city.

165

00:24:42.720 --> 00:24:50.100

Mayor Bill de Blasio: We have been focused, you know a little bit physician heal thyself we have been focused on how much more the city government can do.

166

00:24:50.520 --> 00:25:01.980

Mayor Bill de Blasio: to hire people with disabilities and we are certainly not all the way there yet as Victor it will always remind me, but we are trying to use our own tools much more fully.

167

00:25:03.450 --> 00:25:19.200

Mayor Bill de Blasio: I think if every city in America did that, and then we got our friends in County Government and State Government to do the same, it would be transcendent unto itself, this is a tool we all hold our hands right now that we can do a lot more with.

168

00:25:21.240 --> 00:25:33.180

Mayor Bill de Blasio: So I think the partnership is powerful because it's not just good ideas and and borrowing from each other, but it's also continually raising the bar for each other in a productive way.

169

00:25:35.010 --> 00:25:36.930

Mayor Bill de Blasio: And I think the work will do together.

170

00:25:38.280 --> 00:25:56.550

Mayor Bill de Blasio: is going to be lasting and that's why we want to codify it in a sense, and deepen it with what we're launching today with the empowered cities website, we want a tool that will allow this extraordinary coalition of cities to work together more consistently.

171

00:25:58.170 --> 00:26:03.600

Mayor Bill de Blasio: We think the the website that's being created is going to be really effective in allowing us to do that.

172

00:26:05.220 --> 00:26:15.720

Mayor Bill de Blasio: We want common cause and having a sort of central point that we can all refer to, for what we need to focus on in terms of the national agenda is also important.

173

00:26:16.170 --> 00:26:26.520

Mayor Bill de Blasio: Because it's a time where amazing things are happening at the federal level and even down to the state level for different cities to combine their efforts to have a maximum impact on their State governments.

174

00:26:28.170 --> 00:26:33.540

Mayor Bill de Blasio: So we think this will be a real important hub for connection.

175

00:26:34.830 --> 00:26:38.490

Mayor Bill de Blasio: And for taking the things we are talking about here, putting them into action.

176

00:26:40.050 --> 00:26:43.110

Mayor Bill de Blasio: um I would only conclude with this at.

177

00:26:44.640 --> 00:26:46.890

Mayor Bill de Blasio: The i'll give you a.

178

00:26:48.120 --> 00:26:55.500

Mayor Bill de Blasio: Little vignette I love to go back to a lot, because it reminds me of my dissolute youth and.

179

00:26:56.520 --> 00:26:59.190

Mayor Bill de Blasio: But also, something I tried to.

180

00:27:01.800 --> 00:27:04.530

Mayor Bill de Blasio: Bring to every discussion in government and what we can achieve.

181

00:27:05.550 --> 00:27:15.210

Mayor Bill de Blasio: I think there's a problem we all experience it would be prophecies bureaucracies have a fearless ability to tell us what we can't do and and limit our field of vision, when in fact.

182

00:27:16.590 --> 00:27:20.880

Mayor Bill de Blasio: there's so much more that can be achieved, we have oftentimes a lot more power.

183

00:27:22.500 --> 00:27:23.610

Mayor Bill de Blasio: than we realize.

184

00:27:24.840 --> 00:27:30.930

Mayor Bill de Blasio: And we spend, I think, as leaders in government, we spend a lot of the day, trying to stop people from talking us out of our own power.

185

00:27:33.150 --> 00:27:47.730

Mayor Bill de Blasio: The vignette I offer is that when I was young, and I went to New York university for college, there was this kind of honky tonk Texas bar in Greenwich village it's called the lone star CAFE.

186

00:27:48.990 --> 00:27:59.910

Mayor Bill de Blasio: And it was very notable because it had a in the middle of an area that was supposed to be a little maybe a little elite the lone star CAFE had a massive.

187

00:28:01.140 --> 00:28:02.820

Mayor Bill de Blasio: replica of a guana.

188

00:28:04.350 --> 00:28:07.740

Mayor Bill de Blasio: On top of its building that sort of dominated the skyline in that area.

189

00:28:08.850 --> 00:28:14.640

Mayor Bill de Blasio: And then they had their slogan, which is the thing I really want to refer to, and their slogan was too much ain't enough.

190

00:28:16.410 --> 00:28:21.270

Mayor Bill de Blasio: And that is that it is animated me many times since then.

191

00:28:22.560 --> 00:28:23.520

Mayor Bill de Blasio: And I think.

192

00:28:24.750 --> 00:28:39.660

Mayor Bill de Blasio: In the many conversations i've had about how we expand opportunity for people with disabilities, I think it's just pushing the spectrum all the time, I think there's so much more out there, and if anyone says we've gone far enough it's implicitly not true.

193

00:28:40.890 --> 00:28:48.090

Mayor Bill de Blasio: And you know, this is a great example of aim high because there's so much more out there that can be reached.

194

00:28:50.040 --> 00:28:57.270

Mayor Bill de Blasio: And that's a perfect segue to introducing Victor kalisa who is someone who i've just enjoyed.

195

00:28:58.350 --> 00:29:03.000

Mayor Bill de Blasio: Every time we meet every time we conspire together.

196

00:29:04.410 --> 00:29:13.770

Mayor Bill de Blasio: i've enjoyed it, because he has only one speed, which is forward and tremendous energy and hope and all he does.

197

00:29:14.550 --> 00:29:25.380

Mayor Bill de Blasio: And you know, there are some people who are activists and come into government and can't figure out how to be in government and then there's some people in government who never ever ever thought like an activist.

198

00:29:26.460 --> 00:29:31.680

Mayor Bill de Blasio: victor's quite exceptional because he thinks like an activist, but he actually knows how to make government work.

199

00:29:32.910 --> 00:29:43.590

Mayor Bill de Blasio: And for that reason he's become nationally renowned even internationally as someone who's built, you know, innovation and new approaches that really do work and that folks are so anxious to.

200

00:29:44.280 --> 00:29:52.830

Mayor Bill de Blasio: To borrow and act on so Victor i'm so thankful for everything you've done for the people in New York City and i'm so thankful that your.

201

00:29:53.370 --> 00:30:05.760

Mayor Bill de Blasio: ideas are being picked up on so many other places i'm going to turn it over to you now, and all I ask is after I saw all these nice things about you don't screw it up okay it's.

202

00:30:06.990 --> 00:30:14.040

Mayor Bill de Blasio: just put you on a big pedestal here brother, so you know just make sure you live up to that.

203

00:30:15.660 --> 00:30:21.930

Mayor Bill de Blasio: Really, I mean you're actually his mother did write the introduction I should note that she sent it over to me this morning.

204

00:30:22.260 --> 00:30:24.180

Tom Cochran: he's he's gonna do okay it's going to.

205

00:30:24.420 --> 00:30:25.020

Mayor Bill de Blasio: be okay.

206

00:30:25.470 --> 00:30:26.730

Mayor Bill de Blasio: yeah okay.

207

00:30:26.790 --> 00:30:27.330

Tom Cochran: I can see that.

208

00:30:27.390 --> 00:30:30.240

Mayor Bill de Blasio: I can feel it coming out okay he's he's pumping out now.

209

00:30:31.560 --> 00:30:33.990

Mayor Bill de Blasio: you're backstage before the concert he's pumping up.

210

00:30:34.410 --> 00:30:35.490

Tom Cochran: it's gonna be all right.

211

00:30:36.630 --> 00:30:43.050

Mayor Bill de Blasio: Take care everyone Thank you keep doing the great work you're doing and Victor you were in good hands with you take it away.

212

00:30:43.380 --> 00:30:54.900

Victor Calise: Thank you mayor de blasio I i'm going to tell my mom about that and she's going to make sure she makes you some good eggplant Parmesan again so it will certainly get that to you, but most of all mayor de blasio Thank you.

213

00:30:56.100 --> 00:31:05.580

Victor Calise: So much for your leadership and trusting me to to run your office and allowing me to be the advocate inside city government to get things done.

214

00:31:06.750 --> 00:31:22.680

Victor Calise: And my my successes are built on built on you, so thank you and your administration for letting me move forward, and thank you, Tom conquered as well for allowing us to be here today and mayor lightfoot it was a pleasure to.

215

00:31:23.820 --> 00:31:27.540

Victor Calise: meet you virtually and I look forward to meeting you sometime in the future.

216

00:31:28.920 --> 00:31:40.110

Victor Calise: um I want to say good afternoon everyone, and I am joined by my colleagues Rachel are far Commissioner of the mayor's office for people with disabilities in Chicago.

217

00:31:40.800 --> 00:31:48.150

Victor Calise: And Christina kosh disability Commissioner of the mayor's office, the mayor's Commission for persons with disabilities in Boston.

218

00:31:49.140 --> 00:32:07.110

Victor Calise: and to ensure that this webinar is accessible for all attendees i'm going to start off with a brief description of myself, I am a white male wearing glasses with salt and pepper hair i'm wearing a blue suit with a pin a white shirt and a yellow tie with.

219

00:32:08.610 --> 00:32:16.590

Victor Calise: White flour white and blue flowers behind me, is a Beige wall, with some plaques and a map behind me.

220

00:32:18.150 --> 00:32:29.280

Victor Calise: And I became began my career in city government as an Ada coordinator for New York City department of parks and recreation really looking to make parks go beyond in.

221

00:32:30.030 --> 00:32:37.830

Victor Calise: Their codes and standards for accessibility and I became Commissioner of marriage offers people with disabilities under the Bloomberg administration.

222

00:32:38.340 --> 00:32:49.620

Victor Calise: And a mayor de Blasio appointed me for the last eight years to really drive his disability agenda and really bring equity to people with disabilities, when we make lots of great strides here.

223

00:32:50.550 --> 00:32:57.090

Victor Calise: And I understand from my personal experience the complex challenges that people with disabilities face every day.

224

00:32:57.960 --> 00:33:10.020

Victor Calise: it's my job to help nearly 1 million people who self identifies living with one or more disabilities access opportunities and services to everyone who is in new yorker.

225

00:33:10.770 --> 00:33:22.890

Victor Calise: And my office and I work to make New York City, the most accessible city in the world, and I encourage each and every one of you to hop on board and become that accessible city as well, and we focus on.

226

00:33:24.030 --> 00:33:37.860

Victor Calise: Many issues and policy areas that will be discussing today, including employment and accessible city services, as well as transportation and affordable housing and before I move on, I just want to thank.

227

00:33:39.030 --> 00:33:43.440

Victor Calise: Martha Jackson, who heads up our nyc at work or financial.

228

00:33:44.460 --> 00:34:02.910

Victor Calise: are empowered New York City empowered cities approach and everything that makes employment move forward without her leadership we are not here today and the nyc at work staff who supports her and in organizing this today, so thank you i'm going to give you a round of applause.

229

00:34:05.250 --> 00:34:07.740

Victor Calise: And now I want to Title turn it over.

230

00:34:08.820 --> 00:34:15.690

Victor Calise: to one of my great cities in here in the US, Commissioner, are far, can you please introduce yourself.

231

00:34:18.660 --> 00:34:22.620

Rachel Arfa: yeah Tiki Commissioner, can he then.

232

00:34:23.640 --> 00:34:33.720

Rachel Arfa: said hey everyone, my name is Richard over in India, Commissioner, for the mayor's office for people with disabilities here in Chicago.

233

00:34:34.380 --> 00:34:51.090

Rachel Arfa: Think could have put buying an issue or description, so a great woman in a him show to them brown here in his eyes your aba needed to do too much with that, but the isn't in MMA city hard up is, if you hate me to book some.

234

00:34:52.710 --> 00:35:05.880

Rachel Arfa: books and on it to open a dance it in such a pleasure to be here with me other Commissioners to work together, others as a bonus share then.

235

00:35:06.660 --> 00:35:15.450

Rachel Arfa: put out the depth in a sound that you can be the viper to eat idiots and speech therapy and you have may i'm def accent.

236

00:35:15.960 --> 00:35:25.230

Rachel Arfa: So feel free to ask me to repeat myself, do you need me to it it's manhood making edits add, we have the access it, but he simply have.

237

00:35:26.040 --> 00:35:37.710

Rachel Arfa: A mere could say Nik richie to openness provider page and the the term either be also have a caption, then you can access the caption equal am particularly at the nine transcript button.

238

00:35:39.570 --> 00:35:46.380

Rachel Arfa: So, as I said, we have the tried to make everything we do extensive them.

239

00:35:47.160 --> 00:35:55.710

Rachel Arfa: And this service me and they don't match an answer right we separated, Commissioner, by me an advantage in Chennai last year in the beach body is.

240

00:35:56.580 --> 00:36:06.960

Rachel Arfa: A divine stoney to job in the middle of the creator man, it makes it easier because nobody have a real because the divergence of it, you turned upside down.

241

00:36:07.290 --> 00:36:18.090

Rachel Arfa: So we made made to the club they put easier, the people who are proactively, it makes it easier to an opinion happy to the people that are already used to.

242

00:36:18.750 --> 00:36:38.850

Rachel Arfa: Have we have diabetes, often in maybe they could add that we need to do that activity GM choppy can add the equivalent need to his bands yeah the X in distribution, but you know so Tina establishment continuing to provide services to Japan agreements with DC but he needs.

243

00:36:40.080 --> 00:36:42.240

Rachel Arfa: He has to be done.

244

00:36:43.980 --> 00:36:44.490

Rachel Arfa: and

245

00:36:45.570 --> 00:36:58.380

Rachel Arfa: What a cleaner busy his name is bill, and certainly it is deputy this move, and have disappeared, have made by the Commissioners of our Commissioner policy, but that, as a Commissioner, clear statement cash them best.

246

00:36:59.910 --> 00:37:12.150

Rachel Arfa: Your BP so many of the same issue it'd be have these muddy munich's is either by up with me look at the two weeks, and these meanings, including in the Bay and the deputy Commissioner Christina within.

247

00:37:13.260 --> 00:37:25.020

Rachel Arfa: Within sterling their top quality needed many different issues that were coming up to in these meanings of damage to be different from each other and to borrow his.

248

00:37:26.220 --> 00:37:32.700

Rachel Arfa: demeanor supreme power divorced when he knows if he could run it to either work works in a zoo need to.

249

00:37:33.150 --> 00:37:48.870

Rachel Arfa: I go to this work, I don't I haven't standard team here in Chicago but then I got to reach out to each one of you in 7am so proud to the server to unconditional love and cast from the Boston to each person.

250

00:37:51.450 --> 00:38:06.780

Kristen McCosh: Thank you, Commissioner, my name is kristin McCarthy and i'm the disability, Commissioner, for the city of Boston I am a white female I have blond hair and glasses and i'm wearing a white sweater my background is an image of Boston City Hall.

251

00:38:08.070 --> 00:38:16.530

Kristen McCosh: So I would like to thank everybody for this opportunity to be here, especially my fellow Commissioners, and all the mayors and their staffs from across the country.

252

00:38:17.310 --> 00:38:29.520

Kristen McCosh: I serve under mayor Kim janie she is new to the position, many of you may know that our former mayor Martin Walsh was appointed as the secretary of Labor under President Joe Biden.

253

00:38:29.970 --> 00:38:40.950

Kristen McCosh: So mayor janie is new to her role, but she was President of the Boston city council and she's done a lot of great work, in particular for people with disabilities, she sends her apologies for not being here.

254

00:38:41.310 --> 00:38:45.960

Kristen McCosh: But hopefully I can do a good job in representing her and the work that we do in the city Boston.

255

00:38:46.470 --> 00:38:53.460

Kristen McCosh: I also have a very strong Boston accent as a lifelong bostonian so please feel free to ask me to repeat anything as well.

256

00:38:54.210 --> 00:39:03.540

Kristen McCosh: So my role in the city is I lead the city's collective efforts towards accessibility and inclusion and I really work on this in a systemic method.

257

00:39:03.960 --> 00:39:12.630

Kristen McCosh: I work with all the other departments in the city of Boston to make sure that everything they do includes accessibility and inclusion of people with disabilities.

258

00:39:12.960 --> 00:39:24.540

Kristen McCosh: I work closely with our public public works department transportation, the school's boston's Center for youth and family all that health and human service departments.

259

00:39:24.990 --> 00:39:29.640

Kristen McCosh: Boston public health Commission age strong, which is formally the elderly, Commission.

260

00:39:30.060 --> 00:39:37.050

Kristen McCosh: And we make sure that we all collectively look at accessibility for a programmatic level and also a physical level.

261

00:39:37.380 --> 00:39:45.090

Kristen McCosh: Our streets and sidewalks we use the complete streets method which i'm sure, a lot of other cities, do I know a lot about the city's do as well.

262

00:39:45.690 --> 00:39:55.230

Kristen McCosh: And we work to create best practices among all our cities departments work and I really want to stress to the mayor's and the policymakers.

263

00:39:55.620 --> 00:40:06.990

Kristen McCosh: On this call that it's so important to have that disability lens at a high level I serve to provide information and direction to the Mayor in her administration.

264

00:40:07.380 --> 00:40:15.660

Kristen McCosh: I work as a spokesperson on all issues of disability and really use that lens to ensure that everything we do doesn't just meet.

265

00:40:16.110 --> 00:40:22.890

Kristen McCosh: Compliance as Mayor lightfoot suggested earlier but we work on what we call ideal accessibility.

266

00:40:23.190 --> 00:40:35.460

Kristen McCosh: Which is all the little things that you may not think of like if for a built environment, for example, instead of having a set of stairs and a ramp next to it, we would recommend that it's a flush entry so everybody can.

267

00:40:35.970 --> 00:40:41.190

Kristen McCosh: enter a building together so that's just a small example of one of the things we do, which.

268

00:40:42.270 --> 00:40:52.440

Kristen McCosh: architects and designers may not think of, but it really sends the subtle message that everyone is equal in are able to enjoy things together on an equal footing.

269

00:40:53.490 --> 00:41:04.860

Kristen McCosh: So that's just a small bit of information about me and i'll talk more about our programs in Boston when we get to that piece of the agenda, but for now I would like to turn it back over to commission a policy.

270

00:41:08.790 --> 00:41:16.170

Victor Calise: Thank you, Commissioner ricochet appreciate it, and thank you, Commissioner, are far it's great to have Chicago and Boston here to great cities.

271

00:41:18.090 --> 00:41:27.090

Victor Calise: So it's it's exciting right, this is really exciting to really talk to you about this new multi city initiative called empowered cities.

272

00:41:28.260 --> 00:41:32.970

Victor Calise: People with disabilities have always faced tremendous barriers to financial security.

273

00:41:34.650 --> 00:41:42.570

Victor Calise: And here's some numbers, more than a quarter million more than a quarter of people with disabilities in the United States live in poverty.

274

00:41:43.320 --> 00:41:51.480

Victor Calise: and two thirds of adults with disabilities are out of work, so empowered cities is a roadmap to inclusion and equity.

275

00:41:52.200 --> 00:42:03.750

Victor Calise: This initiative is a collaboration co chair by the office of disability of Boston Chicago Los Angeles San Francisco and New York City.

276

00:42:04.410 --> 00:42:16.050

Victor Calise: And our offices were working on to advance inclusion long before this collaboration by addressing access to city services healthcare transportation.

277

00:42:16.440 --> 00:42:30.510

Victor Calise: And policy areas and we established empowered cities in 2019 to focus on three interrelated pillars that form the systematic roots of economic equality for people with disabilities.

278

00:42:31.020 --> 00:42:44.340

Victor Calise: And those are financial empowerment accessible, affordable housing and I want to stress that accessible in the affordable housing, because it needs to happen and employment of people with disabilities.

279

00:42:45.510 --> 00:42:59.340

Victor Calise: coven 19 has really ripped apart, our country our world and has made advances made the goal of advancing equity for people with disabilities, really, really, really more important than ever before.

280

00:43:00.420 --> 00:43:09.840

Victor Calise: And we are building this national network, led by people with disabilities of city municipal leaders to foster collaboration share best practices.

281

00:43:10.500 --> 00:43:31.500

Victor Calise: challenge each other, like mayor lightfoot said and improve and innovate programs by lately stealing from other cities and, more importantly, to build an advocate for inclusive policies, not only here in our cities, but across the United States that have repercussions around the world.

282

00:43:32.640 --> 00:43:49.650

Victor Calise: And the newly created empowered cities website is certainly a way for us to share the best practices on on our roadmap to inclusion it's a tool for everyone to join the movement and a vehicle to raise our collective voices.

283

00:43:51.000 --> 00:43:59.250

Victor Calise: And here in New York City we've responded by to the compounding needs of the disability Community over this really interesting last year.

284

00:43:59.580 --> 00:44:11.400

Victor Calise: And, beginning in March of 2020 our office convene weekly calls zoom calls obviously and physical phone calls, because some not everyone has access to the Internet.

285

00:44:12.240 --> 00:44:23.850

Victor Calise: When our nonprofit partners advocates the disability community at large to share public health updates and resources and respond to questions and concerns in real time.

286

00:44:24.510 --> 00:44:34.170

Victor Calise: And we helped coordinate free food delivery services because there was so much food insecurity throughout our city, as well as your own and we.

287

00:44:34.920 --> 00:44:40.440

Victor Calise: Certainly made sure that people had protective equipment, we knew that people disabilities.

288

00:44:41.160 --> 00:44:49.440

Victor Calise: Have underlying conditions and needed those masks those gloves those face shields those gowns and we delivered them to it, so their health care provider.

289

00:44:50.070 --> 00:45:00.210

Victor Calise: and their people that come into their homes, to help them for their activity activities of daily living had the protective equipment for themselves to keep safe and be able to help them.

290

00:45:01.350 --> 00:45:08.730

Victor Calise: And we made sure that people who are deaf and hard of hearing had access to clear mask so they can coordinate with others and.

291

00:45:09.750 --> 00:45:20.070

Victor Calise: and be able to communicate and, additionally, we serve as a liaison between the New York City Department of Health and mental hygiene and the emergency management.

292

00:45:20.910 --> 00:45:34.170

Victor Calise: department here regarding accessibility of vaccine sites now my colleagues from Chicago Commissioner are for will now tell you more about how our cities responded to the pandemic twitching arfa.

293

00:45:36.630 --> 00:45:38.550

Rachel Arfa: The Commission mentality.

294

00:45:40.110 --> 00:45:50.550

Rachel Arfa: And since easy at the company to create templates needy exposed, so my D amp D spear years the specialty areas of PepsiCo and.

295

00:45:51.900 --> 00:45:52.350

Rachel Arfa: These are.

296

00:45:53.460 --> 00:46:01.830

Rachel Arfa: Pretty basic unique position and be able to have a clean initio accessibility to include but need to.

297

00:46:02.460 --> 00:46:10.140

Rachel Arfa: include the clan club need to test it might be the people to make sure that he burns accessible to people with disabilities.

298

00:46:10.680 --> 00:46:33.300

Rachel Arfa: Do creating a liquid psp or 20% so that people with disabilities didn't have to add parties ups to access tested it then as the vaccine food out of it to be separate deeks up had a nudge St at united Center yeah damn people academics, then.

299

00:46:34.380 --> 00:46:40.140

Rachel Arfa: We up and down and say, if you go up to me, extending the business up the exorcism pronouncer then.

300

00:46:40.800 --> 00:46:59.100

Rachel Arfa: Any communication access needs will be provided to the nutraceutical had saved saved equity to open but also PDF put moved into a good evening me could share the materials will be the put a note in employment equity plan electronic romance at.

301

00:47:02.670 --> 00:47:12.750

Rachel Arfa: debits cleaner pogram resume staff member to add that courage to help people with intellectual, but the permitted tcp dd dd or just have access to understand.

302

00:47:14.130 --> 00:47:24.630

Rachel Arfa: The vaccine process it to be as quickly as possible, the current, be it may be answered with 18 to 20 some odd localization a class Chicago to help.

303

00:47:25.680 --> 00:47:34.800

Rachel Arfa: me meek vaccine improvement, accessible and post, where people get them to Kim them tippett pradaxa vaccine appointments you have that they could do that with.

304

00:47:35.940 --> 00:47:36.390

Rachel Arfa: The.

305

00:47:38.850 --> 00:47:44.310

Rachel Arfa: At the beach can do to open the terms and Community engagement give we have.

306

00:47:45.900 --> 00:47:58.560

Rachel Arfa: A disability back simply click room that means of an EPI to be super abby's danica 22 P, is the mvp mvp together class deployments am two presenters still.

307

00:47:59.250 --> 00:48:06.210

Rachel Arfa: Up book, but now department of public health and not Pacific moon emergency management it then that me a surface service.

308

00:48:06.840 --> 00:48:24.960

Rachel Arfa: could happily, it should be able to economic expertise, be a devotee ship predictable divi community to have mixer that distribution provide some the billions that them in and connect to the service Commission and then cast she open about that vehicle evoke it burst into.

309

00:48:28.380 --> 00:48:37.590

Kristen McCosh: Thank you, Commissioner Alpha and one thing I didn't get to tell people when I did my introduction, was that I also use a wheelchair, nobody can see that on.

310

00:48:38.520 --> 00:48:50.970

Kristen McCosh: My screen, but I do use a wheelchair, so I have lived experience in the work that I do so thank you, Commissioner, offer offer talking about the accessibility of vaccination sites.

311

00:48:51.810 --> 00:48:58.140

Kristen McCosh: We work together, we all share best practices and we did also address vaccination sites, we provided.

312

00:48:58.650 --> 00:49:10.050

Kristen McCosh: portable ramps for the sites that had one step in the back entrance we also were able to secure asl interpreters for the sites and for emergency press conferences.

313

00:49:10.830 --> 00:49:19.560

Kristen McCosh: At the time, it was mayor Walsh when coven first hit, and he went from doing a press conference, maybe once a week or once every two weeks.

314

00:49:19.890 --> 00:49:28.050

Kristen McCosh: To literally doing one every day, as many of you did across the country I know so we worked really hard to ensure that we had asl.

315

00:49:28.530 --> 00:49:35.910

Kristen McCosh: American sign language interpreters at every press conference and this took a lot of work because, like I said we weren't used to it.

316

00:49:36.300 --> 00:49:45.720

Kristen McCosh: And we also noticed that there was a shortage of qualified interpreters to do a public event like a press conference, it takes us skill set.

317

00:49:46.050 --> 00:49:53.730

Kristen McCosh: And also confidence, the interpreters, because they know that it will live on it's very important information, it will be recorded.

318

00:49:54.120 --> 00:50:04.950

Kristen McCosh: And they just have to really be prepared for that, so we didn't have a large group of interpreters who are ready for to take this step, so what we did was we developed a.

319

00:50:05.700 --> 00:50:16.230

Kristen McCosh: Training program and mentoring program we provided funding through empowered Cities initiative from city to train new as entrepreneurs.

320

00:50:16.950 --> 00:50:20.880

Kristen McCosh: They were already qualified interpreters, but we allowed them to come to the press conferences.

321

00:50:21.330 --> 00:50:39.870

Kristen McCosh: and be mentored and learn the basic skill set that's required, and it also helped them build confidence, so we did this, for we were able to provide asl at 100% of the mass conferences, through the first year so we're really excited about that, and at the same time we're developing a whole.

322

00:50:41.070 --> 00:50:52.800

Kristen McCosh: new group of interpreters who can do this, so it was really a pipeline program in another piece of another pipeline program that we worked on regarding employment was.

323

00:50:54.180 --> 00:51:02.520

Kristen McCosh: What we call the on the job experience pipeline program so unemployment figures for the city of Boston are really staggering.

324

00:51:02.910 --> 00:51:13.260

Kristen McCosh: We know that 76% of Boston residents with disabilities were jobless that similar to the national rate so even before COVID ended the employment market.

325

00:51:13.590 --> 00:51:18.330

Kristen McCosh: More than two thirds of working age people with disabilities were unemployed or underemployed nationally.

326

00:51:19.020 --> 00:51:27.420

Kristen McCosh: People with disabilities are the country's largest untapped talent pool, so our response and power cities leaders have undertaken initiative.

327

00:51:27.960 --> 00:51:37.290

Kristen McCosh: to connect constituents with meaningful employment identify new training pathways and support businesses and implementing inclusive hiring practices.

328

00:51:37.950 --> 00:51:43.860

Kristen McCosh: The pipeline program that I mentioned earlier, the on the job experience pipeline program we call it old Jeff.

329

00:51:44.520 --> 00:51:52.680

Kristen McCosh: We work with the state's folk we have agency, the mastery of Commission to create a pipeline to public sector jobs for Boston residents with disabilities.

330

00:51:53.070 --> 00:52:01.200

Kristen McCosh: Like mayor de Blasio mentioned earlier, we really need to be a model, a model employer, so that people in the private sector can see that.

331

00:52:01.590 --> 00:52:11.190

Kristen McCosh: Not only is it something that you can do it's something that we should do and it's a really large pool of talented people who have been left on the sidelines.

332

00:52:11.820 --> 00:52:20.790

Kristen McCosh: So what we do is we bring in 10 Boston residence with disabilities into City Hall, every year we connect them with a six week paid.

333

00:52:21.300 --> 00:52:28.560

Kristen McCosh: job training program where they can use their skills to show employers in different city departments.

334

00:52:29.460 --> 00:52:40.050

Kristen McCosh: their abilities and they many of them already have college degrees, some of them don't but they're all looking to get back into the workforce and really just giving them that foot in the door.

335

00:52:41.100 --> 00:52:49.830

Kristen McCosh: gives them the opportunity to show their talents and abilities and figure out what they would like to do, in turn, it gives city managers.

336

00:52:50.220 --> 00:52:58.050

Kristen McCosh: department had managers, the opportunity to get to know them and really see that people with disabilities are.

337

00:52:58.410 --> 00:53:09.510

Kristen McCosh: Just as you know, qualified, sometimes even more qualified than other people who they may be considering for a role, so we, through this job the oh Jeff to.

338

00:53:10.110 --> 00:53:18.150

Kristen McCosh: pipeline program we've been able to give hundreds of Boston residence with disabilities, the opportunity to be employed by the city.

339

00:53:18.570 --> 00:53:31.620

Kristen McCosh: we're really excited about it and we're happy to be a model employer to showcase that people with disabilities, can do the job so with that I will turn it back over to Commissioner police.

340

00:53:32.790 --> 00:53:41.760

Victor Calise: Thank you, Christine yeah he can see a theme happening here right we're talking about access to communication, where the sign language video remote interpreting.

341

00:53:42.420 --> 00:53:52.710

Victor Calise: Accessibility of vaccination sites, employment and job training, all of this stuff is just really exciting to hear and and as.

342

00:53:53.010 --> 00:54:01.050

Victor Calise: Cities are pushing forward this is what needs to happen, this is what we're talking about full inclusion of people with disabilities and in 2017.

343

00:54:01.590 --> 00:54:11.580

Victor Calise: We established the nyc at work program and you heard mayor de Blasio mentioned it earlier it's a business driven person centered workforce development Program.

344

00:54:12.180 --> 00:54:24.450

Victor Calise: staff members, the nyc at work team prescreen and connect new Yorkers with disabilities to internships and job opportunities with established business partners in the public.

345

00:54:24.930 --> 00:54:35.760

Victor Calise: And of course the private sectors and prior to the pandemic over 650 active job seekers room rolled at different stages of the process.

346

00:54:36.270 --> 00:54:53.820

Victor Calise: and nearly 400 have been connected to employment in high growth sectors and I often like to say, these jobs were real jobs with real pay in real benefits and our nyc at work, serves as a recruitment for.

347

00:54:55.080 --> 00:55:03.330

Victor Calise: The diversity hiring program that allows qualified new Yorkers with disabilities to access city government jobs right.

348

00:55:04.650 --> 00:55:24.210

Victor Calise: Are levers that were able to use with and and these job seekers do not have to take a civil civil service exam so it allows them to get in the door, and currently 378 employees throughout city government are participating and 55.

349

00:55:26.610 --> 00:55:34.350

Victor Calise: Now, in 28 just want to throw some numbers at jack ma do this from time to time in 2017 and in 2018.

350

00:55:34.890 --> 00:55:47.880

Victor Calise: For candidates were hired each year right it's a toy that's not much at all now in 2019 when we were involved people that knew people disabilities knew how.

351

00:55:48.270 --> 00:55:58.320

Victor Calise: What their needs and concerns with their reasonable accommodations were and wrapping that, all together, the nyc at work team was the recruitment resource.

352

00:55:59.190 --> 00:56:11.160

Victor Calise: And we hired at individuals who were offered full time employment through 55 back so when you have people with disabilities leading the charge things work and in response.

353

00:56:12.180 --> 00:56:14.070

Victor Calise: To a lot of things that are happening.

354

00:56:15.510 --> 00:56:21.960

Victor Calise: Right now, in our digital age, as I talked to you it's a lack of access to accessible technology.

355

00:56:23.550 --> 00:56:41.610

Victor Calise: access to technology as a whole wi fi and digital skills which is digital literacy, so our nyc at work program has launched a new bridge to really tackle that digital divide and it's called connect a bill it.

356

00:56:42.630 --> 00:56:54.120

Victor Calise: And job seekers will be selected that come through our nyc at work program to receive a personal laptop and access to digital skill trainings based on their career goals.

357

00:56:54.660 --> 00:57:03.060

Victor Calise: And following the pilot, we hope to get and replicate this obviously it's all based on funding as well to.

358

00:57:03.690 --> 00:57:15.060

Victor Calise: to replicate this project with other empowered cities now, Commissioner, are far I I know you're doing a lot in in Chicago is mayor lightfoot laid out.

359

00:57:15.660 --> 00:57:24.270

Victor Calise: that's all right healthy competition that we have between each other, but can you tell me what's happening for employment for people with disabilities in Chicago.

360

00:57:26.700 --> 00:57:34.980

Rachel Arfa: yeah absolutely the Commission attendees he cut up he is good in competition is always good with that because there's typically addition.

361

00:57:37.140 --> 00:57:45.750

Rachel Arfa: To it of the peaks that happening at the moment here in Chicago is narrow down between 18 million a bird coordinated the.

362

00:57:46.860 --> 00:57:59.340

Rachel Arfa: purchase of rude meekly enter the equal to operator to our t&c separate minimum of each workshop city city and Chicago tsunamis Nam supplementing which.

363

00:58:00.600 --> 00:58:08.310

Rachel Arfa: is not going to be, you know, did the city of Chicago and 2021 so the plan bgp napa many of it that.

364

00:58:09.360 --> 00:58:10.320

Rachel Arfa: The deployment of the.

365

00:58:12.030 --> 00:58:23.850

Rachel Arfa: beatitudes exception or to a team see our pieces needs to pay people with disabilities piecemeal creatures that are the 10 minute mark, we are planning deployment so.

366

00:58:24.600 --> 00:58:35.790

Rachel Arfa: This would still report it is Eric the people with disabilities deserve to make at least minimum of nature in competitive recruitment opportunities no exceptions to.

367

00:58:36.960 --> 00:58:51.030

Rachel Arfa: still be focusing our efforts and security group associations and making that transition from supplemental mcininch to competitive employment opportunities for people with disabilities, he has some of them.

368

00:58:51.540 --> 00:59:01.500

Rachel Arfa: To make the pm, I can design it to take the opportunity to step up and lead show to workshops in our move it to us.

369

00:59:02.280 --> 00:59:13.140

Rachel Arfa: Competitive up very much so that means that it's hope it's opened up, we have the physical address at that between now and 2020 words that they meet the standard.

370

00:59:14.070 --> 00:59:23.010

Rachel Arfa: And, if any, now the peak think they're being done here in Chicago his name, we copied in my test runs the median upper back imitations which.

371

00:59:23.820 --> 00:59:40.380

Rachel Arfa: you've heard of and i'm from me on a tmp are now in the process of them diplomatic it the parent cities we doing hi i'm a temporary employee increased into results appropriate with us on some of these initiatives, see somebody initiative.

372

00:59:41.550 --> 00:59:45.030

Rachel Arfa: boutique up our business enterprise for people with disabilities.

373

00:59:45.690 --> 00:59:55.590

Rachel Arfa: to recognize business by people with disabilities, if we dive into permanent home and services to experience that that even opportunities and.

374

00:59:55.830 --> 01:00:01.890

Rachel Arfa: In our certification to any change to a particular create DC for the women here this evening and Chicago.

375

01:00:02.370 --> 01:00:14.520

Rachel Arfa: Is some activities include setting up a disability, these us and say CDC was good, he plays with disabilities to connect them it then.

376

01:00:15.330 --> 01:00:21.900

Rachel Arfa: We hope the devil also pastor in a payment, we are pre book deal comfortable disclosing the artistic medium.

377

01:00:22.410 --> 01:00:32.490

Rachel Arfa: Because it's many of you know, into the Americans with Disabilities Act to not have to disclose your to see what they need, which could make it difficult to track the number of people with disabilities.

378

01:00:33.120 --> 01:00:42.780

Rachel Arfa: Who has to be bad to create that passes them to superseding add it, that is, the entity hurt by heavy comedian who identifies.

379

01:00:43.530 --> 01:00:56.850

Rachel Arfa: It has such a strong connection to run to see buddy but that also click to equip vpn city bind to the ban passes the association around to, to put it in the browser piano screening.

380

01:00:57.750 --> 01:01:08.490

Rachel Arfa: job applications to make sure they are nap requirements that have nothing to do with the tab that may be a Natasha discreet account people with disabilities, a pathetic temper be considered.

381

01:01:08.850 --> 01:01:26.250

Rachel Arfa: A producer's job simply by the mixture to obtain out of them it'd be balance European European partnership with the city and city colleges and to Kappa to increase new opportunities new students, etc, etc, then they can find them connected to him and opportunities.

382

01:01:29.970 --> 01:01:32.220

Rachel Arfa: is in now and connect to reduce.

383

01:01:33.810 --> 01:01:34.680

Rachel Arfa: Commissioner.

384

01:01:37.830 --> 01:01:46.650

Kristen McCosh: Commissioner alpha to follow up on what you said and what Commissioner police, he said, we also work on financial empowerment for persons with disabilities.

385

01:01:46.980 --> 01:01:56.400

Kristen McCosh: We know this is one of the biggest sectors where persons with disabilities are left behind, and there are many reasons for that from losing benefits to.

386

01:01:57.300 --> 01:02:06.720

Kristen McCosh: Like Commissioner are I talked about do you identify as a person with a disability there's a fear that if you do identify that will be held against you, so we do a lot of work.

387

01:02:07.260 --> 01:02:13.980

Kristen McCosh: On financial empowerment and one of the programs that we're really focusing on right now is in collaboration with the Boston public schools.

388

01:02:14.370 --> 01:02:25.740

Kristen McCosh: So we're working with a special special education department to provide financial education, training and practical tools to students with developmental disabilities aged 18 to 24.

389

01:02:26.220 --> 01:02:33.000

Kristen McCosh: We know this group, which is called transition age students face a lot of challenges in their next step after high school.

390

01:02:33.630 --> 01:02:42.750

Kristen McCosh: Families and students go from a whole system of support and services in the public schools and in high school.

391

01:02:43.200 --> 01:02:48.060

Kristen McCosh: To we're basically falling off a cliff when they get out of high school there isn't anybody to really.

392

01:02:48.420 --> 01:02:54.900

Kristen McCosh: Tell them there's no one specific agency to say Okay, this is the next step so families are really left to figure out on their own.

393

01:02:55.230 --> 01:03:07.500

Kristen McCosh: And when this comes to things like benefits it's really complicated and confusing, so what we do is we are working with students and families, aged 18 to 24 as they plan their next steps after high school.

394

01:03:08.070 --> 01:03:18.420

Kristen McCosh: We help them with with setting financial setting up their own financial goals according to their personal needs and ambitions we train them on budgeting saving.

395

01:03:18.750 --> 01:03:30.000

Kristen McCosh: Checking accounts credit and predatory behavior which we know is on the rise, we tell them information about the able account, which allows them to save money and not lose benefits.

396

01:03:30.450 --> 01:03:39.420

Kristen McCosh: SSI medicaid and ways to maintain these benefits, while they go to work, we also offer a stipend to open a savings or checking account.

397

01:03:39.780 --> 01:03:45.720

Kristen McCosh: Depending on their personal goals and it's really exciting because, like we said it really gives them a pathway forward.

398

01:03:46.050 --> 01:03:54.990

Kristen McCosh: After high school, so they don't just fall off a cliff and maybe never even think about going to work or not having an opportunity to actually get a job.

399

01:03:55.470 --> 01:04:01.620

Kristen McCosh: and several of these students actually many of these students have participated in our old Jeff program and.

400

01:04:01.980 --> 01:04:09.690

Kristen McCosh: gotten jobs with the city Boston so it's great how these programs work hand in hand and we're really excited about it, other cities in.

401

01:04:10.200 --> 01:04:16.020

Kristen McCosh: other cities in Massachusetts have also replicated up programs, so we see it's spreading across the Commonwealth.

402

01:04:16.440 --> 01:04:27.930

Kristen McCosh: and on our calls every month with the disability Commissioners from across the country we all share examples of our programs in hopes that they will be replicated in other cities across the country as well.

403

01:04:29.130 --> 01:04:40.290

Kristen McCosh: So with that, I would like to say that we just shared a very small slice of our collective work here today, and we encourage you all to visit our website, which is being debuted.

404

01:04:40.620 --> 01:04:53.610

Kristen McCosh: empowered cities.org to learn more about our efforts and respond to the coven 19 crisis we're working also to advance equity and financial empowerment increase employment and access to affordable housing.

405

01:04:54.360 --> 01:05:01.980

Kristen McCosh: The empower city site offers many resources and best practices for cities like yours and it's The easiest way to connect with us.

406

01:05:02.550 --> 01:05:16.140

Kristen McCosh: You can just simply complete the form on the join us page to get on the road to inclusion and join a movement to raise our collective voice by connecting with empowered cities with that I will turn it back over to Commissioner of Police he.

407

01:05:16.770 --> 01:05:31.650

Victor Calise: Well, thank you so much, I really appreciate everything here and and you're right it everyone you really heard a lot of things right you're talking about employment we're talking about.

408

01:05:33.060 --> 01:05:47.010

Victor Calise: we're talking about minimum wage being raised we're talking about making sure kids with disabilities don't fall off cliffs and have access to things mean, these are really important initiatives and to realize that disability.

409

01:05:48.720 --> 01:05:55.710

Victor Calise: Really intersects with race, gender LGBT Q plus all of it.

410

01:05:57.240 --> 01:06:07.770

Victor Calise: it's there right and we have to ensure that disability is is incorporated I know we have a hard stop in about five minutes and I just just going to throw out is.

411

01:06:08.820 --> 01:06:10.950

Victor Calise: Does anybody have any questions for us.

412

01:06:12.390 --> 01:06:15.240

Victor Calise: Because I know we got a stop in five minutes.

413

01:06:15.270 --> 01:06:17.460

Tom Cochran: Victor Victor let me, let me just say that.

414

01:06:18.900 --> 01:06:21.690

Tom Cochran: This is what the United States conference of mayors is all about.

415

01:06:22.800 --> 01:06:27.300

Tom Cochran: You know, we built how way to build buildings we do a lot of things.

416

01:06:28.410 --> 01:06:35.550

Tom Cochran: But the social issues of this nation 20 United States conference mayor's is our heart.

417

01:06:36.840 --> 01:06:46.260

Tom Cochran: We went through the civil rights struggle we went through the era we went to the AIDS epidemic, we went to same sex marriage.

418

01:06:46.770 --> 01:07:02.160

Tom Cochran: So sometimes it's not the hardware, is not what you build it has to do with the people in our cities, and so I really appreciate the work that you and Rachel and others are doing.

419

01:07:03.990 --> 01:07:10.350

Tom Cochran: In this output along without two mayors and the other three mayor's so let's continue to talk about this because.

420

01:07:12.090 --> 01:07:13.260

Tom Cochran: When you are in trouble.

421

01:07:15.330 --> 01:07:16.170

Tom Cochran: When you travel.

422

01:07:17.610 --> 01:07:18.540

Tom Cochran: You come to a city.

423

01:07:20.460 --> 01:07:28.950

Tom Cochran: You don't stay in a rural area when you need help you come to a city, and so it is natural in the United States.

424

01:07:29.460 --> 01:07:40.620

Tom Cochran: Because in the rural areas hello, you know what i'm saying so, it will appreciate so much discussion and what you didn't know that this is a culture.

425

01:07:41.370 --> 01:07:51.510

Tom Cochran: And this is a heritage of the United States conference of mayors, to continue to amplify the issue so we've been talking about today, so thank you, thank you very much.

426

01:07:53.160 --> 01:08:00.330

Victor Calise: Thank you, Tom We appreciate your leadership on this, we look forward to our conversation in September, because we're going to hold you to that.

427

01:08:01.680 --> 01:08:14.550

Victor Calise: And it's such a pleasure to be here, we encourage everyone to look to start some offices, we can help you look to include people with disabilities and everything you offer we're here to help we built.

428

01:08:15.570 --> 01:08:33.060

Victor Calise: A big initiative we're mirroring United States conference of mayors to really mimic what you guys are doing right and have those disability offices there, we want to start these empowered cities programs we're here to help sign up be part of the initiative and thank you for everything.

