

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR JULIANA STRATTON
 Military Economic Development Committee
 Quarterly Meeting Minutes
 Tuesday, May 3rd, 2022

A present majority of filled member positions shall constitute a quorum: i.e. 11 members present				
Position	Name	Present	Phone	Absent
Ex-Officio				
Chair, Ex-Officio (LG's Office)	Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton		x	
Vice Chair, Ex-Officio (Dept. of Commerce & Economic Opportunity)	Joseph McKeown		x	
	Salvador Garza			x
Ex-Officio (Dept. of Transportation)	Vacant			
	Kirk Brown		x	
Ex-Officio (Dept. of Natural Resources)	Von Bandy			x
Ex-Officio (Dept. of the Environmental Protection Agency)	Chris Hill		x	
Ex-Officio (Dept. of Revenue)	Kristin Logue		x	
Ex-Officio (Dept. of Military Affairs)	James Smith			x
General Assembly				
Sen. Pres. Mem.	Vacant			
Sen. Min. Lead. Mem.	Sen. Brian Stewart			x
House Speaker Mem.	Rep. Katie Stuart			x
House Min. Lead. Mem.	Rep. Dan Swanson		x	
Public				
Pub. Mem.	Scott Lohman		x	
Pub. Mem.	Zachary Mottl			x
Pub. Mem.	Christopher Kojak			x
Pub. Mem.	Kevin Wiley			x
Pub. Mem.	Lamar C. Brown, Esq.		x	
Pub. Mem.	Christine Nappo		x	
Pub. Mem.	Vacant			
Pub. Mem.	Vacant			
Pub. Mem.	Vacant			
Pub. Mem.	Vacant			
Military Veteran or Defense Industry				
MV/DI Mem.	Kimberly Huth		x	
MV/DI Mem.	Alderson Carolyn Morris		x	
MV/DI Mem.	Vacant			
MV/DI Mem.	Vacant			
Military Veteran				
Vice-Chair, Military Veteran Mem.	William Cobetto		x	
Guest (non-member)				
Guest, Scott Air Force Base	Col. Robinson		x	
	Christine Spargur		x	

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Guest, IL National Guard	Maj. Gen. Richard Neely			x
Guest, Naval Station Great Lakes	Capt. Jason Williamson		x	
Guest, Rock Island Arsenal Army Base	Col. Allison			x
Guest, Rock Island Arsenal Army Base	John Burns		x	
Guest, Rock Island Arsenal Army Base	John Ramsdell		x	

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

- a. Lt. Governor Stratton called the meeting to order at 10:33 AM
- b. Roll call was taken and a quorum established

II. Approval of the Agenda for 05/03/22 and Approval of the Minutes from 3/03/22

- a. **Agenda for 05/03/22**
 - i. Moved by Kimberly Huth
 - ii. Seconded by Lamar C. Brown
 - iii. All in favor
 - iv. No opposition
 - v. No abstentions
- b. **Minutes from 03/03/22**
 - i. Moved to approve minutes as amended by Lamar C. Brownⁱ
 - ii. Seconded by Scott Lohman
 - iii. All in favor
 - iv. No opposition
 - v. No abstentions

III. Chairperson’s Remarks

- a. Lt. Governor Stratton began her remarks by letting the Committee know that her office is planning to begin hosting meetings in-person. However, she states that unfortunately they were unable to get this particular meeting in person. Lt. Governor Stratton says she looks forward to seeing people in-person at the next scheduled meeting. She moves on to sharing an exciting piece of news related to Illinois’ military and technological development. Earlier this month, Gov. Pritzker joined the Department of Defense, Illinois National Guard, and other local military and industry leaders to celebrate the opening of Defense Innovation Unit Office in Chicago. This office is going to serve as a focal point for the Department of Defense engagement with Midwest entrepreneurs and innovators while also enabling greater access to domestic technology solutions for our Nation’s service members.
- b. Lt Governor Stratton proceeds to share that she would like for today’s meeting to serve as an opportunity for members to share ideas, topics, and issues that the Committee could focus on more. She also recommends for members to provide recommendations for speakers and site locations the Council should visit.

IV. New Business

- a. Council Member Recommendations

ⁱ Correction to the minutes was made by Kristin Logue.

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- i. Joseph McKeown recommends for the Committee to invite consultants who have dealt with Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) to a future meeting. He recommends that there even be one meeting focused entirely on BRAC.
- ii. Kirk Brown recommends that the Committee should continue to engage with Scott Airforce Base. He also states that the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency will be building a new station in St. Louis, which the Committee should look for opportunities to partner with the agency.
- iii. Chris Hill shared a link in the comments to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's [website](#) which has a section on renewable energy development on former landfills and cleanup sites. Chris Hill says if people are interested, he may be able recommend someone come speak to the Committee on this issue.
- iv. Kristin Logue states that she would like to see if the Committee could focus on awareness on mental health by perhaps inviting some speakers who could provide some guidance.
 1. Lt. Governor agrees with this suggestion, especially now as we talk about the importance of mental health as a state still recovering from the pandemic.
- v. Rep. Swanson agrees with Kristin Logue on bring speakers to talk about mental health and also, medical care. It is critical for our fellow installations to know they have our support. Rep. Swanson suggests the Committee look to invite an expert from Tri-Care or VA Medical Care who talk about the issues they see in the State of Illinois. As for location, Rep. Swanson says he has a small office but the door is always open for visitors.
- vi. Scott Lohman recommends the Committee to continue to tour the 3 big military bases, Peoria Air National Guard Base, Illinois Army Corp of Engineers in Champaign. Scott Lohman supports the previous recommendation for bringing consultants but would also like to see someone working in the State specifically on the military affairs. He states Illinois needs someone waking up every day and thinking about these issues whether its mental health, licensing, or BRAC.
- vii. Lamar C. Brown West recommends inviting Lt. Gen. Nadja West who is the first black female surgeon general of the U.S. Army. In 2013, West was also the first black female major general of the Army's active component, and was Army Medicine's first African-American female two-star general.
- viii. Christine Nappo seconds Scott Lohman's comments and believes a statewide focus is an imperative step. She is excited that the Committee gets a chance to visit the installments and be in person again. Christine Nappo notes she looks forward to visiting the new Defense Innovation Unit Office. As the person who oversees the manufacturing initiatives throughout Cook County and surrounding counties, she states she is always eager to see what the military is needing and what innovative produces are out there. Christine Nappo says she would love to present manufacturing related initiatives that she and others are working on, with the help of the American Rescue Plan funding to support our defense manufacturing communities in Northeastern

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Illinois. In regards to a statewide focus, Christine Nappo also shares that her organization is working with economic development partners in the Quad Cities, Peoria, and Rockford to get Illinois designated as a Defense Manufacturing Community which comes with funding. She notes other states have been successful in receiving that designation, but Illinois has not so when they put the application out later this summer, Christine would love to see a statewide support for Illinois to receive this special designation.

1. Lt. Governor Stratton tells Christine to let her office know if there is anything they can do to help with this application.
- ix. Kimberly Huth states that two years ago the Committee spoke about the issues with license reciprocity and since then, things have begun moving with the support of the Department of Defense – specifically the Air Force, Department of Education and the work of Rep. Swanson. Kimberly states that in the past, when she was in the military, they used readiness but now the word is resiliency. Kimberly states that we need to speak about silent resiliency and the power of resiliency. She also states that silent resiliency is important because here in the heartland at Scott Air Force Base, there is a national security reason why we need to make sure they have connection to across the globe. Kimberly notes Colonel Robinson can speak more to that. Kimberly recommends that the Committee invite someone to speak on cybersecurity.
- x. John Ramsdell informs the Committee that Col. Allison will be changing command in the month of June and the new Colonel will be Dan. Mitchell.
 1. Lt. Governor Stratton states her office will follow up.
- xi. Alderperson Carolyn Morris states that when she first joined, she imagined the Committee to be a group that focused on the economic development of the individual service members, past service members, veterans, etc. From that, Alderperson Morris believes Illinois has a lot to offer as far such as the Illinois Veteran Grant Program, which is one of the things that brought her family to Illinois. Alderperson Morris suggests that this Committee think about how we can support individuals, especially those who are transitioning from military to civilian life. She recommends NIU as a potential site location due to its ROTC program.
- xii. Lt. Governor Stratton thanks the members for providing this feedback.

V. Member Updates

- a. Kimberly Huth states that the last time Lt. Governor Stratton was at Scott Air Force Base, Col. Robinson extended the invitation for Lt. Governor Stratton to receive a classified briefing on Ukraine. Kimberly Huth recommends this meeting take place as soon as possible.
 - i. Lt. Governor Stratton replies by saying that she expects her office is already working on scheduling this meeting.

VI. Public Comments

- a. There is no public comment.

VII. Adjournment

- a. Motion to adjourn moved by Alderperson Carolyn Morris at 11:12 am

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- b. Seconded by Scott Lohman
- c. All in favor
- d. No opposition
- e. No abstentions