



October 30, 2020



FLASHBACK FRIDAY with Virginia Beach’s Andrew Friedman

Before the days of social distancing and masks, I had the pleasure of joining Richmond Field Office Director Carrie Schmidt and Virginia Beach Housing & Neighborhood Preservation Director Andrew Friedman for a tour of Cedar Grove Apartments, Hampton Roads’ award-winning and first permanent supportive rental housing for homeless and/or disabled U.S. veterans. Looks like it’s time to celebrate another award! **Congratulations to Andy for receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Hampton Roads Housing Consortium!** The Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes an individual that has demonstrated lifetime successes committed to improving the lives of families and the well-being of communities through recognition that households of all income levels deserve a fair opportunity to buy or rent housing that is safe, decent, affordable and suitable for their needs. The individual must also demonstrate exemplary, state of the art responses to providing affordable housing or support services. Well deserved! For details of the announcement, [click here](#).



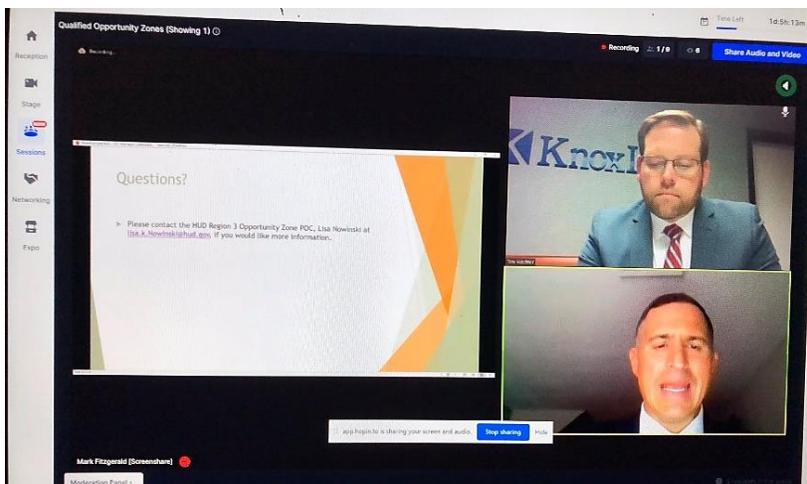
Transformational Projects in Cities, Rural Areas, and Industrial Cities

Moderator
Michael Bailkin, Of Counsel, Akerman LLP

LIVE from NYC, National Opportunity Zones Virtual Forum

I’d like to thank Akerman LLP’s Michael Bailkin and the federal Opportunity Zones team for inviting me to participate in the National Opportunity Zones Virtual Forum this week.

The Opportunity Zones initiative was conceived with a simple goal in mind—to direct private capital toward distressed communities and businesses around the country, and to reward smart investments in the process. Now, nearly three years after the initial legislation was passed, I had the pleasure of joining leaders from every corner of the OZ universe—from community groups, to developers, to the White House—to discuss the initiative’s progress and its future potential. Ja’Ron Smith, Special Assistant to the President and Chris Pilkerton, Director of the Opportunity Now opened the event that included four panels: A critique of the OZ Program, Enhancing Role and Benefits for OZ Residents and Businesses, Leveraging Local/State and Federal Supplemental Benefits and Transformational Projects in Cities, Rural Areas, and Industrial Cities. In the final “Transformational” panel of the virtual event, I had joined Erie Downtown Development Corporation’s Matthew Wachter, Temple University Fox School of Business’ David Wilk and others for a discussion on how we can keep positive change moving in the right direction in some of our most challenged geographical areas. Great to be a part of it all.



A Second Talk about Opportunity Zones

Last Thursday, I had the pleasure to present, virtually, to Lawyers Associated Worldwide along with Knox Law Public on establishing and cultivating Opportunity Zone Funds. It was great opportunity to present to a conference that included 100+ firms and to

showcase our work on Opportunity Zones throughout the Mid-Atlantic.

NEWS YOU CAN USE NOW

GUEST COLUMN: HUD designates first EnVision Center in West Virginia in the Mingo Messenger

Ten years ago, the Williamson Housing Authority hired David, one of its residents, as a maintenance mechanic. But he had a dream of growing his career and moving toward self-sufficiency. Today, he is a supervisor and a restaurant owner, often employing other public housing residents. In just a few months, he will be leaving public housing to live on his own.

The Family Resource Center in Williamson was there to assist David, pictured at right, throughout his journey toward upward mobility. Now the first EnVision Center in the state, the center’s goal is to build on existing programs to give other low-income families in Mingo County access to the same opportunities that helped David become self-sufficient.

EnVision Centers began with a simple vision: unleashing the potential of underserved communities. The Family Resource Center is proof that this important vision is already coming to life. HUD’s designation of an EnVision Center confirms and strengthens our partnership with the Williamson community to improve its resident’s lives. EnVision Centers take a holistic approach, going beyond brick and mortar investments by investing in what matters most—people. For more about our new EnVision Center, [click here](#).





And, in the Twin Cities of Bristol, Virginia & Tennessee

There's nothing like a new banner unveiling to let folks know just how excited the Bristol Redevelopment & Housing Authority team is about their new EnVision Center. We invite you to stay tuned to their Facebook @bristolrha for announcements and future developments.

Succeeding Despite the Odds in Frederick, Maryland

When it comes to determination and a positive outlook on life, Housing Authority of the City of Frederick (HACF) resident Silvia Gonzalez has it all. After traveling from her home in El Salvador to the U.S. 14 years ago, she is well on her way to becoming a U.S. citizen. HACF recently celebrated Silvia's successful completion of the U.S. naturalization test, her full-time job with a good living wage and her plans to soon obtain her driver's license. "She is determined, unshakably positive and always there to help her neighbor," said the HACF team in high praise of Silvia who has lived in public housing for five years. "It is inspiring to see her—and other residents like her—succeeding despite the hardships this year has presented. Thank you for reminding us what hard work, positivity and a little assistance can help us achieve, Silvia Gonzalez. Keep on thriving."



\$3.7 Million in Housing Counseling Grants Awarded in Mid-Atlantic Region

District of Columbia: \$1.3 million

Pennsylvania: \$919,457

Maryland: \$793,828

Virginia: \$663,274

West Virginia: \$27,321



To locate a HUD-approved housing counselor in your area, call (800) 569-4287.

Lead-Based Paint Questions and Answers

OCTOBER 29, 2020

Housing and Urban Development, HUD
Environmental Protection Agency, EPA
Maryland Department of the Environment, MDE

ICYMI! Join us for our Interactive Virtual Panel Discussion on Making a Home Lead Safe!

To commemorate National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week 2020, **HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes (OLHCHH) collaborated with EPA and MDE** in hosting an interactive virtual panel discussion via webinar. Intended for housing authorities, property management companies, homeowners, REALTORS®, first-time homebuyers, do-it-yourselfers and contractors, **attendee questions and issue expert answers helped everyone learn why lead is so dangerous and what you can do to assure your home remains lead safe.** After you [register](#), you'll be able to view the 90-minute session online.

Now that I am back on the road again, I look forward to the time when we can be together again—with proper social distancing protocols, of course.

Stay safe, stay sane and be well.



Joe DeFelice, Region III Regional Administrator
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Region III Recap, October 30, 2020

Region III Recap & HUDLines, HUD's Region III e-News Brief

We welcome your feedback and invite you to share your news with Lisa A. Wolfe at lisa.a.wolfe@hud.gov. If you know anyone who would like to receive our new Region III Recap or our quarterly HUDLines, please feel free to share. We safeguard and do not rent, sell or permit the use of our lists. To subscribe, visit [HUDLines](#). You may also [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.

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