

Hill Community Development Corporation (Hill CDC) and partners launch extensive online forum to inform Hill District residents about resources in the face of Coronavirus (COVID-19)

African American Residents Hit Harder by the COVID-19 Pandemic

The Hill CDC in partnership with seventeen partners will host a community-wide Hill District forum this evening – online. The forum will cover a broad range of topics including food and basic needs, housing, labor safety issues, education, employment related matters, health and safety and more. “The Hill District is a determined community with a can-do spirit, and is regularly forced to demonstrate resilience while also finding ways to support one another. As is the case for most of us, this time is a stretch and it requires more of each of us to make sure our community is cared for,” says Marimba Milliones, president & CEO of the Hill CDC. “Our goal with this event is to coordinate resources and information-sharing with neighborhood partners so that residents have support during this crisis”. Seventeen partners see the critical importance of this moment and have pulled together skills, abilities and resources to support residents of the Hill District community -- however possible. The organization known for large scale community meetings of 100+ community members has had to shift to an online meeting platform.

Community members can catch the meeting at www.hilldistrict.org/covid19 or go to the Hill CDC's Facebook at www.facebook.com/myhilldistrict. “Shifting from large scale in-person community meetings to an online format has certainly required considerable effort and coordination. We're pleased to be able to make this happen during a time when people need one another the most,” says Felicity Williams, Hill CDC Programs and Policy Manager and Special Assistant to the President and CEO.

Elected officials and others persons will represent large agencies, the city, state and school district. Representative Wheatley, who will be featured says that he's seen levels of cooperation in his District that are not surprising, but certainly uncommon. “None of us have experienced this before; I'm determined to move forward initiatives and policies on the State level that help our communities deal with the immediate harm and the long term recovery efforts.”

Trisha Gadson, CEO of Macedonia FACE, a family enrichment program, is personally delivering meals with her staff. They are considered essential employees. The organization administers the Meals & Wheels program and other essential services to Hill District seniors. "We just want our seniors to know that we care and that they can count on us at this time." Other partners include the Neighborhood Resilience Project, who is working to deploy community health officers, trained members of the community; the Pitt Community Engagement Center is working to provide tech support to community members and stakeholders and many more partner will be found presenting at the online forum on Thursday from 5:30pm – 7:30pm. Log on at www.hilldistrict.org/covid19.

Partners and speakers include:

Facilitated by Marimba Milliones
President & CEO of the Hill CDC

CONFIRMED SPEAKERS:

Noble Maseru, University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health
Trisha Gadson, Macedonia FACE
Bob Damewood, Regional Housing Legal Services
Richard Morris, Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh
Paul Abernathy, Neighborhood Resilience Project,
Sala Udin, Pittsburgh Public School Board Director
Kira Henderson, Principal Pittsburgh Weil
Dr. Margaret Starkes, Principal Miller Elementary
Markese Long, Partner4Work
Jonathan Yadlosky, Matilda Theiss
Marsha Grayson, Housing Authority City of Pittsburgh
State Representative Jake Wheatley
Councilman Dan Lavelle
Michele Cooper, McAuley Ministries
Shinora Johnson, Center That Cares
Kirk Holbrook, Pitt CEC Hill District

Hill CDC Mission:

The Hill CDC works in partnership with residents and stakeholders to create, promote, and implement strategies and programs that connect plans, policies and people to drive compelling community development opportunities in the Greater Hill District.