



Strong Community. Strong Economy. Vibrant City.

DOWNTOWN MERCHANT COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, May 16, 8:30 a.m.
The Ware Center at Millersville University – Lancaster

MINUTES

52 in attendance!

MEMBER INTRODUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

- Susan Eberly of Alegre Concierge Services announced that the nominations for the [YWCA Lancaster “Women of Achievement” Awards](#) are now open. If you know of a woman that you would like to nominate download the application [here](#).
- Sherry Harry of VisionCorps is excited that they will be hosting the [Lancaster Chamber’s Lancaster City/Lancaster Township Consortium](#) on Tuesday, July 10 from 7:30 to 9:00am.
- Bob Herbert, Director of Communications for YWCA Lancaster encouraged all men to get involved in the subject of sexual assault by joining in the [Walk A Mile In Her Shoes](#) event on Friday, June 14 that steps off from Tellus360 at 4pm. Be brave! Register now and set up your fundraising page [here](#).
- Deena Zoske is once again assisting businesses that would like help with filing their CRIZ reports by the July 15 deadline. Feel free to visit her at the CRIZ Support Location at 4 W. King Street 2nd floor (across from the Lancaster Visitor Center). Deena can help file the reports for you, but you need to schedule an appointment at 484-951-1289 or email lancastercrizcompliance@four-score.com Hours are weekdays thru July 15 from 9am til 5pm.
- Kevin Molloy, Executive Director of the Lancaster County Convention Center thanked everyone for their response to the recent survey and for the welcome that the downtown Lancaster business community offered to the Zenkaikon cosplayers.
- Kristin Snyder, owner of Sophie Stargazer boutique will be part of the panel at the [ASSET’S Fashion Revolution](#) discussion. She is featured on this panel discussion about the revolutionary change in the fashion industry as a Lancaster champions on ethical fashion along with Nicole Vasquez of Nicole Taylor Boutique.
- Julia Morrell, owner of the recently closed Aussie and the Fox took a moment to thank the group for the 5 years of support and friendship she received from her monthly merchant meetings. Julia is hoping that her new career path will include a position somewhere in the downtown business community where she can use her skills to work with the community that she is so committed to serving.
- Rhico Medina, the new General Manager of The Hotel Lancaster introduced himself and was welcomed by the group.
- Drew Speranza Director of Client Services for [BrandYourself](#) was not able to attend the meeting in person but he wanted everyone to know that there are currently several positions open at their Lancaster location (53 W. James St.) that they are looking to fill ASAP and expect to have more openings throughout the summer. Find information and details [here](#).

Monthly Spotlight – BUZZ presented by Michael Sirianni

Click [here](#) for synopsis.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- MEDA World Night Market- May 18
 - Open Streets Lancaster- May 20
 - Red Rose Run – June 2
 - **Merchant Mixer - Kefi at Yorgos – June 14**
 - Lancaster PRIDE Fest – June 24 on Water Street
 - Celebrate Lancaster – June 29
 - Print Crawl – September 7
 - Lancaster Printers Fair – September 14 & 15
 - **Velocity 2018 – September 27**
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- **Downtown Panhandling/Loitering Discussion with Public Service Representatives**
 - **Chief Jarrad Berkhiser of Lancaster City Police Department**
 - **Larry George of Lancaster County Behavioral Health & Developmental Services**
 - **Jennifer Koppel of Penn Medicine/Lancaster General Health**
 - **Doug Hopwood of Tabor - Community Homeless Outreach**
 - **Shawn McNichol & Deb Bard of Certified Addiction Counselors from TW Ponessa**
 - **Lt. Marc Shaffer of Lancaster County Sheriff's Department**
 - **Jerry Schramm of LEMSA - Lancaster Emergency Management Services Association**
 - **Kristin Labezius & Josie Dively – Community Services Group**

This discussion was opened in response to the concerns that were raised at the April Merchant Meeting to the increase in aggressive panhandling in the central business district and the frequent incidents of K2, or opioid use and overdose. Joining us are the experts in our community that have been working together to address these issues.

- If you observe an instance of apparent drug overdose, or drug use, call 911 to report it so that both both police and EMS can be dispatched to the individual.
- The City of Lancaster Panhandling ordinance is modeled on a similar one in Harrisburg. Lancaster's measure doesn't criminalize begging as such. Courts have ruled that would violate First Amendment rights. Instead, it regulates place and manner. Panhandlers can't be threatening or abusive, and they must stop when people refuse or walk away. They can't beg in public parking lots or bus stops, and they can't approach people in cars or at ATMs, or on private property unless the property owner or manager gives them permission.
- Police presence is the best deterrent to aggressive panhandling.
- Doug Hopwood of Tabor – Community Homeless Outreach shared that he had been doing this for 12 years and had never had a single "Homeless Veteran" sign turn out to be true.
- Vanessa McCall Lee of Angel Doll Company urged the group to "think outside the box" to come up with a A proposal to requires permits for anyone soliciting for funds with a sign would require a City permit. An investigation into the status of their local or federal tax payments. Some panhandlers claim to make lucrative livings. Are they remitting their taxes.
- Timm Wenger of Taste the World suggested that there should be a way to say "YES" as well as no for those that sincerely want to help but recognize that handing over cash is not always the answer. He recommended an updated card listing places to go for a meal and shelter, but also for counseling and support.

- Kristin Labezius, Assistant Program Director of Community Services Group spoke about her organizations regular outreach to the homeless population in Lancaster and the fact that mental health issues present real barriers to an individual accepting services. They often work years with clients to build the trust necessary to move them into programs.
- Jerry Schramm of Lancaster Emergency Management Services Association stated that our (indicating all the Public Service Representatives present) primary goal is to get that individual the help and services they need, they are willing to accept it.
- David Aichele, Lancaster City Alliance Director of Clean & Safe Services will be moving forward with a follow-up meeting with this group of public service professionals to evaluate member observations and takeaways from the merchant meeting. This group will seek follow up evaluations from merchants and community leaders to determine the best next course of action to develop an educational and awareness hand-out card that will help not only the general community with alternatives to handing over money but would provide valuable information and support to that person in distress.

- **Member Intra-Marketing Committee Report**

Future Spotlights are:

- June 20 – Evolution Power Yoga with Lisa Taylor
- July 18 – Citronnelle with Chef Rafael Perez and Susan Louie
- August 15 – Thistlefinch Distillery with Andrew Martin
- September 19 – The Common Wheel with Chris Caldwell
- October 17 – Space with Jesse Speicher
- November 21 – Music for Everyone with John Gerdy
- January 16 – Cabalar Meat Co. with Steve Cabalar

- **May Welcome Packets**

- Black Sheep Everything** – 307 N Queen Street
- Farbo. Co** – 147 E. King Street
- Shot & Bottle** – 2 N. Queen Street
- The Common Wheel Bicycle Shop** – 324 N. Queen Street

- **Lancaster City Merchant Mixer** - Thursday, June 14 – Kefi at Yorgo’s

- **NEW Business**

Small Business Saturday 2018 – Saturday, November 28

A proposal was made to begin work on a “Tell Us Your Small Business Saturday in Lancaster City Story” campaign. It would consist of a series of brief 30 – 50 second videos anchored by a branded poster with a graphic that reflects the title and our Shop Small Dine Local Brand.

Date and Location for June MIM Meeting TAKE NOTE – THURSDAY, June 7 at Cabalar Meat Co. (325 N. Queen Street). All are welcome!

- **Open Discussion**

Next Meeting – June 20

This meeting will take place in the Choral Room on the 3rd floor at the Ware Center!

Please let us know the Anniversary of your business by completing the following short [survey](#).

Add value to your business with Downtown Dollars Gift Certificates!

Merchants interested in participating in the program should contact the Lancaster City Alliance via email at info@teamlanc.org or by calling 717-394-0783.