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MetroLab Network Announces Advisory Council

The council includes leaders from government, academia, industry, and non-profits

Washington, DC — December 1, 2016 — MetroLab Network is pleased to announce the formation of its Advisory Council, which will provide strategic advice to MetroLab and its city, county, and university members. The Advisory Council will be Chaired by Martin O’Malley, who also serves as Senior Fellow of MetroLab Network and served as the 61st Governor of Maryland and the 47th Mayor of Baltimore.

“Partnerships across sectors will drive urban innovation. We are thrilled to have leaders from government, academia, industry, and non-profit helping guide our activity at MetroLab, said Governor O’Malley. “Our city and university members will be well-served by their experiences, activities, and insights.”

MetroLab Network now includes nearly 40 partnerships between local governments and their university partners, focused on researching, developing, and deploying technologies and policy approaches to address challenges facing the nation’s urban areas.

The Advisory Council members include:

Jack Dangermond CEO, ESRI

Manny Diaz 41st Mayor, City of Miami // Former President, U.S. Conference of Mayors

Richard Florida Director, Martin Prosperity Institute, University of Toronto // Senior Editor, The Atlantic

Betty Sue Flowers Professor Emeritus, University of Texas at Austin // Former Director, Lyndon Baines Johnson Library & Museum

Shirley Franklin CEO, Purpose Built Communities // 58th Mayor of Atlanta

Rayid Ghani Director, Center for Data Science and Public Policy, University of Chicago

Stephen Goldsmith Director, Innovations in Government Program, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University // Former Deputy Mayor for Operations, New York City // 46th Mayor of Indianapolis

Marcia Hale President, Building America's Future // Former White House Director of Intergovernmental Affairs

Joanne Harrell Senior Director, U.S. Citizenship & Public Affairs, Microsoft // Board of Regents, University of Washington

Paul Hawken Executive Director, Project Drawdown

Ben Hecht President & CEO, Living Cities

Bruce Katz Centennial Scholar, The Brookings Institution

Melissa Mark-Viverito Speaker, New York City Council

Tom Murphy Senior Resident Fellow, Urban Land Institute // 57th Mayor of Pittsburgh

Leslie Richards Transportation Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation // Former Commissioner, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania

Tony Williams Executive Director & CEO, Federal City Council // 5th Mayor of the District of Columbia

“Based on my experience as Mayor of the District of Columbia, in the private sector and as a leader of non-profit organizations focused on improving cities, I have seen firsthand the benefits of collaboration,” said Tony Williams, who currently serves as Executive Director and CEO of the Federal City Council in DC. “Through MetroLab, partnerships with universities allow cities and their residents to realize the benefits offered by digital and information technology, data analytics and sensing.”

MetroLab Network’s city-university partnerships are relationships in which the university serves as a research and development arm, and the city serves as a test-bed for technologies and policies. Faculty members and students gain access to real-world laboratories to develop and test tools and programs that utilize information technology, data analytics, sensing, and more. Cities benefit from their technical expertise, leading to solutions that reduce the cost of infrastructure and services, make cities more sustainable and resilient, and improve citizens’ quality of life. The current members of MetroLab Network are working on more than 100 “research, development, and deployment” projects aimed at addressing challenges facing urban areas.

“I have spent my career studying cities and urbanization,” said Richard Florida, Director of the Martin Prosperity Institute at the University of Toronto. “Not only do universities play an important role in the development of urban vitality, they are increasingly driving public sector innovation. MetroLab provides a mechanism to effectively link universities with cities, and connect that activity across regions.”

MetroLab Network connects cities and universities via a national, collaborative platform that will facilitate the sharing of information and the scaling of technology and solutions across the

country. Through collaboration, its members will address a broad set of challenges facing cities and metropolitan regions. The Advisory Council will help to foster this collaboration, and share expertise from their distinguished careers in government, the private and non-profit sector, and academia.

“Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan who once famously said: *If you want a great city, build a world class university and wait 200 years.*” said Bruce Katz, Centennial Scholar at Brookings. “Senator Moynihan was right on universities, wrong on the amount of time it takes to drive an innovative economy. In an open economy driven by continuous invention, the nexus between cities, universities and innovation is stronger than ever.”

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More information on MetroLab Network and the Advisory Council can be found on the [MetroLab Network Website](#) or on twitter: [@metrolabnetwork](#)

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