

# Information Technology Policy Committee

## Meeting Minutes from January 21, 2010

**ITPAC Members Present:** Edward Blum (Providence), Michael DiConti (Sully), Walter Williams (Springfield), Steve Lam (Braddock), Emily McCoy (Lee), William Young (Hunter Mill), Paul Liberty (NVTC), Maribeth Luftglass (Fairfax County Public Schools), Thomas Mukai (Federation of Citizen Associations), John Skudlarek (Mt. Vernon), Thomas Haser (Chamber of Commerce)

**ITPAC Members Not Present:** Susan Hoffman (Mason), Suresh Shenoy (Dranesville), Ann Kantor (League of Women Voters), Kathryn Walsh (At-Large)

**County Staff Present:** Anthony Griffin, David Molchany, Wanda Gibson, Gordon Jarratt, Greg Scott, Jeanne Wright, Enrique Quinonez, Anita Rao, George Hohmann, Afsaneh Tibbs,

**ITPAC Committee Matters:** The meeting was called to order at 8:10 a.m. Minutes from the December 3, 2009 meeting were approved by the Committee.

### **Membership Matters:**

**Elections:** Edward Blum was re-elected as Chairperson and Anne Kanter was re-elected Vice-Chairperson of ITPAC.

**Awards:** ITPAC recognized Susan Hoffman's (Mason District) achievement in receiving the 2009 Women in Technology award at the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Heroine in Technology ceremony held in Reston, Virginia. Ms. Hoffman was honored for her work with the innovative Emmy Award winning distance learning program, Flight School. The television series and website targeted middle school students and was designed to inspire young people to pursue science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) careers.

**Announcement:** Tom Haser (Chamber of Commerce) informed ITPAC of the inaugural USA Science & Engineering Festival to be held in Washington DC Oct 10-24, with the capstone event on the National Mall Oct 23-24. The purpose of the festival is to get kids excited about STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) studies and careers. Many, many organizations are supporting this event (200+ already signed). He encouraged Fairfax County DIT and ITPAC member organizations to consider supporting this event.

## **Agenda**

### **ITPAC Discussion with County Executive**

County Executive, Anthony Griffin attended the ITPAC meeting and thanked the committee for its work and continuing support of the County's IT Programs. He recognized the committee's efforts in putting together ITPAC's Interim letter to the Board of Supervisors and expressed his appreciation and support for the points raised in the letter. Mr. Griffin also discussed the challenges of coordinating IT in a large diverse organization such as Fairfax County, and informed that IT consolidation between DIT and agency IT resources is a strategic goal requiring careful planning and implementation. He also shared his concern about significant budget challenges facing Fairfax County in FY2011 and FY2010 and the difficulty of meeting growing demand for services while facing diminished resources in the foreseeable future. Following a dialogue with ITPAC members about budget and IT related issues Mr Griffin again thanked ITPAC for its services.

### **E-Government Update: County's Web Site- Translation**

Greg Scott, DIT's Director for E-Government and Public Access Technologies briefed ITPAC on the introduction of an automatic translator to the County's public web site. Google's Translator is a free software product used to translate every page of the county web site into twelve different languages at the users' convenience. There will be no future costs associated with the Google software. Additionally Mr. Scott informed ITPAC that DIT will be launching a new iPhone application for access to county information and services.

### **FIDO and Code Enforcement**

Gordon Jarratt, DIT Division Director for Enterprise Systems presented ITPAC with an overview of FIDO (Fairfax County Inspections Database Online) and the county's initiatives for Enhanced Code Enforcement. FIDO provides a single system and database solution (Hansen/Infor) that streamlines permitting, licensing, inspections, complaints and code enforcement for 572 employees in six agencies including the Department of Planning and Zoning, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, Fire Department, Health Department, Housing/Blight Abatement, and Code Enforcement (Strike Team). There is also a centralized code enforcement web portal that allows constituents to register online service requests and complaints, view recent development activity for an address or parcel, and schedule inspections and check on the status of permits. In 2009 the FIDO agencies issued 62,000 permits (building, license, and use permits), conducted 189,000 inspections, and generated \$16.7 million in county revenue.

While FIDO has been a success for the County, the current system is a candidate for future replacement. The original vendor has been acquired twice and many skilled vendor personnel are no longer available. The current vendor has announced further reduced support for our platform which is a fat client architecture that is not web browser based. The Hansen COTS product does not have a built-in wireless application, thus DIT has been developing that feature custom. The vendor also announced that they will no longer offer their customer internet portal capability, and that their customers have thirty days to make other arrangements for public on-line access. These issues and others have required additional DIT staffing and resources.

In the FY2011 advertised budget the County announced the formation of a new and further centralized Code Enforcement Department within the County. This reorganization will result in a new set of business requirements to further refine the process flows within FIDO with custom modifications. DIT is aware that other vendors offer robust and modern integrated code enforcement, complaints, and inspections COTS packages that have been implemented at several large and complex localities recently. Within two years, the County may issue an RFI to obtain more information about what other vendors offer in preparation to replace FIDO with a new system.

### **Other Items:**

Wanda Gibson, Director of DIT updated ITPAC on the successful cutover of the new CAD in the fall of 2009, as well as implementation of the Police Department's ILEADS system in January 2010. She also updated ITPAC about ongoing efforts between the county and schools on the ERP project including implementer interviews and staff training plans. These projects will be on the agenda for upcoming ITPAC meetings.

The Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 am - Next ITPAC meeting is scheduled for March 4, 2010.