

NACo International Economic Development Task Force: 2019 Spring Conference Call Agenda

Thursday, June 6, 2019: 2:00PM – 3:00PM EDT

Weblink: [Join Webex meeting](#) | Phone number: 1-844-740-1264

Meeting number (access code): 642 931 198

Meeting password: IEDTASKFORCE

Task Force Leadership

- Chair:** The Hon. Kathryn Starkey, Commissioner, Pasco County, Fla.
Vice Chair: The Hon. Mary Lou Berger, Commissioner, Palm Beach County, Fla.
Vice Chair: The Hon. Diane Burgis, Supervisor, Contra Costa County, Calif.
Vice Chair: The Hon. Jim Harvey, Commissioner, Weber County, Utah
Vice Chair: The Hon. Randy Maluchnik, Commissioner, Carver County, Minn.
Vice Chair: The Hon. Stephanie Wright, Councilmember, Snohomish County, Wash.

Meeting Agenda

- Call to Order and Welcome – The Hon. Kathryn Starkey, Commissioner, Pasco County, Fla.
- U.S.-China Trade Relations and Counties
 - In 2017, U.S. goods and services trade with China totaled an estimated \$710.4 billion, making China the 3rd largest goods export market and the number one supplier of goods imports that year for the U.S. The U.S.-China Business Council will discuss the U.S.'s trade relationship with China, their thoughts on the recent trade negotiations between the two nations and how county governments can better support businesses in their communities engaged in trade between the U.S. and China.*
 - Speaker: Ms. Anna Ashton, Director of Business Advisory Services, U.S.-China Business Council
 - County Example: Chester County China Initiative (Pa.)
 - Chester County (Pa.) Commissioner and IED Task Force Member Terrence Farrell will present on the Chester County China Initiative and his county's "sister city" relationship with the Anhui province as an example of how counties can work to develop a closer trade relationship with China.*
 - Speaker: Hon. Terrence Farrell, Commissioner, Chester County, Pa.
- Q & A
- Closing and Announcements

NACo Staff Contact for IED Task Force: Jonathan Harris, Research Analyst, 202.942.4247 or jharris@naco.org

NACo International Economic Development Task Force: 2019 Spring Conference Call Speaker Bios



Ms. Anna Ashton serves as the Director of Business Advisory Services at the U.S.-China Business Council (USCBC). She leads staff across USCBC's three offices in providing member companies with analysis of China's commercial policies, business operating environment and best practices; and also helps to develop and implement USCBC's advocacy on behalf of member companies.

Ms. Ashton has served as a China analyst in both public and private sector positions. She has worked for the U.S. Department of Defense on strategic China issues, as well as for her home state of Arkansas to develop a strategy for recruiting Chinese investment. Ms. Ashton also worked in the International Division of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, primarily focused on China trade and investment issues, and as an economic and trade analyst at the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission.

Ms. Ashton holds a J.D. from Georgetown Law, a BA in Chinese Studies from Wellesley College, and an MA in East Asian Languages and Civilizations from the University of Colorado at Boulder. She and her family live in Arlington, Va.

Hon. Terence Farrell was first elected as a Chester County (Pa.) Commissioner in 2008 and is currently serving in his third term. Under his leadership, the board advanced its development of a strategic plan to increase efficiency in the county's operations, passed a balanced budget without raising taxes and reaffirmed the county's award-winning open space preservation program for the next decade. Commissioner Farrell also served two terms as Chester County's Recorder of Deeds, where he led the transition to a modern recording and imaging system in the Recorder's Office that, for the first time, provided internet access to public records.

On behalf of the country, Commissioner Farrell leads the Chester County China Initiative (CCCI) – a partnership launched in 2013 between Chester County and the Chester County Economic Development Council to build strong business ties between Chester County and China in order to attract Chinese investment to Chester County. By promoting Chester County as a premier location for Chinese investment, businesses and trade, CCCI aims to create value-added job opportunities in Chester Country that will attract, develop and retain talent.

Commissioner Farrell lives in the borough of West Chester (Pa.) with his wife, Theresa, and takes an active interest in his local community, serving on a number of boards and councils, including the YMCA of the Brandywine Valley and People's Light and Theatre Company.

