May 31, 2020

Council Leadership in 2020: Enduring Mission, Refocused Efforts

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in early March, the Council’s leadership team refocused our organizational efforts to the development and execution of impactful initiatives that:

- Empower Council members and other Massachusetts organizations to make the best decisions possible to ensure employee safety, advance public health strategies and minimize disruption and negative impacts to their businesses and operations;

- Help government officials and policymakers to create and maintain conditions that support our resilient private sector and a rapid recovery for the Massachusetts economy; and

- Continue to advance and introduce new Council programs that support the Council’s mission and provide value to members.

Please contact any member of the Council’s professional staff to learn more about how you can get involved in shaping and driving the Council’s ongoing initiatives in support of our enduring mission: To help make Massachusetts the world’s most attractive place in which to live and work, and in which to create, operate, and grow high technology businesses.

You can help catalyze new collaborations and expand the Council’s growing cohort of senior leaders and innovative employers by sharing the Council’s work with your professional and peer networks, including through our preferred social media platform LinkedIn.

See below for more information on the expanding impacts of our Recovery and Return to the Workplace Initiative as well as member-led engagement opportunities and programs.

Council’s 2020 Annual Meeting Set for July 9: Exclusive Sponsorship Opportunities Available

The Council will celebrate its 43rd anniversary with a Virtual Annual Meeting on July 9 at 10:30 AM with the generous support of exclusive Presenting Sponsor MilliporeSigma. The early list of meeting sponsors includes Care.com, Kronos, McKinsey & Co., MKS Instruments, Brooks Automation, and The MITRE Corporation.

Until such time as our preferred traditional in-person Annual Meeting and large-group gatherings resume, we
are excited about the opportunity to use current and improving technological capabilities to share, celebrate and commit to common action in new ways.

The 2020 Annual Meeting will feature:

- Remarks from Governor Charlie Baker
- Presentation of the 2020 Ray Stata Leadership and Innovation Award
- Special recognition of our Commonwealth’s Health Care Front-line Heroes
- Comments from Udit Batra, CEO of MilliporeSigma & Member of Executive Board, Merck KGaA
- Darmstadt Germany and Chairman of Mass. High Tech Council

Watch your inbox for registration information and contact **Bernie Prusaczyk** to learn more about how your organization can benefit from our unique Annual Meeting sponsorships, including these still available exclusive opportunities:

- Ray Stata Leadership and Innovation Award Sponsor
- Health Care Front-Line Heroes Special Recognition Award Sponsor

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**Expanding Impacts: Council Recovery and Return to the Workplace Initiative**

The Council’s COVID-19 Recovery and Return to the Workplace Initiative continues to provide business leaders and innovation economy employers with peer-validated and timely information to help them restart operations and return to work safely and successfully.

Our Recovery and Return to the Workplace Initiative is also contributing to the strong public-private partnership that exists in the Commonwealth by informing Governor Baker’s reopening efforts and briefing Congressional decision makers and Massachusetts legislative leaders about key policies that will support a robust and sustained recovery for the Commonwealth’s private sector economy and employers.

Leveraging the Council’s CEO-level network and team of subject matter experts and contributors, the Council’s Recovery and Return to the Workplace Initiative includes:

- C-level development and socialization of a detailed return to the workplace framework.
- Thought leadership and civic engagement via public virtual roundtables, advocacy, education and communication efforts.
- Private, member-only engagement opportunities, programs and initiatives.
- Contributions to the Commonwealth and our communities through COVID-19 response and relief efforts.

**Emerging Expertise: Recovery and Return to the Workplace Framework and Employer Deep Dives**

At the direction of the Council’s Executive Committee and under the leadership of Executive Committee member Steve Pagliuca (co-chair Bain Capital and co-owner Boston Celtics), we developed an evolving **Recovery and Return to the Workplace Framework** which identifies key steps, conditions and research needed to protect the health of residents while reigniting the Commonwealth’s economy in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.
The framework is designed to evolve and expand in scope and detail, and Council members’ continued contributions will play a critical role in guiding leaders from the public and private sectors in the months to come.

On April 30, Council leaders presented our framework to Governor Baker’s Reopening Advisory Board, which included representatives from several Council member organizations, including Council Members Aron Ain (Kronos), Laurie Leshin (WPI), Corey Thomas (Rapid7), and Pam Everhart (Fidelity Investments).

In addition to initial presentations and follow-up with the Reopening Advisory Board, Council leaders were asked to present the framework in detail to Mass. Department of Public Health Commissioner Monica Bharel and her senior team, and to State Senators and staff hosted by Senate President Karen Spilka.

On May 22, experts from Bain & Company and Bain Capital provided Council members with an employer-focused deep dive on new workplace norms including mask usage and the future of testing and tracing technologies.

The Council’s Recovery and Return to the Workplace point of view was outlined in this May 15 Boston Globe opinion piece authored by Chris Anderson and Steve Pagliuca and our efforts have received national media attention from CNN and drawn praise from both Council members and media observers:

- "The most meticulous roadmap for Massachusetts’ economic comeback that state officials have seen so far." Jon Chesto, Boston Globe

- "The COVID-19 return to work framework webinar was without question among the most important hours I have spent in the past 8 weeks. Really informative on the situation and solutions. Every business leader and decision maker needs to see that presentation, in my opinion." Gordon Carr, Deputy Director, Real Estate Strategy and Policy, Massport

Higher Ed Reopening Framework and Employment Law Issues Featured in Recent/Upcoming Recovery and Return to the Workplace Virtual Roundtables

Launched on March 18, the Council’s Recovery and Return to the Workplace Virtual Roundtable Series features business, healthcare and governmental leaders sharing key insights and best demonstrated practices on key facets of COVID-19 responses and recovery. To date, the Virtual Roundtable series has included 13 forums attended by more than 1,000
senior leaders from across the Commonwealth’s innovation ecosystem. Executives and experts from more than 20 Council member organizations have participated as roundtable panelists to share their thought leadership on key topics.

On May 12 the Council hosted the latest in the series, *Legal Considerations: The New Workplace and Workforce in the Wake of COVID-19*. Featuring employment and health care law experts Jennifer Fay from Goodwin Procter, Liam O’Connell from Nutter and Mark Barnes and Megan Bisk from Ropes and Gray, the roundtable provided members with insights on key legal considerations for the new workplace and workforce in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Join us on June 4 from 8 to 9 AM for our next roundtable: *Safe on Campus: A Framework for Reopening Colleges and Universities* featuring an interactive panel discussion with three members from the Higher Education Working Group of Governor Baker's Reopening Advisory Board:

- Robert Brown, President, Boston University
- Paula Johnson, President, Wellesley College
- Laurie Leshin, President, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Register now for this timely conversation on the path ahead for higher education institutions with three members from Governor Baker's Reopening Advisory Board Higher Education Working Group.

To help support our community, roundtables are being made available free of charge to the public and recordings of all prior roundtables can be accessed via the Council's website.

**Council Member-only Policy and Government Affairs Roundtables**

In addition to our public virtual roundtables and events, the Council is conducting member-only virtual forums to facilitate C-level information sharing and engagement with senior government officials at the federal and state level and hosting weekly video Policy and Government Affairs roundtables with public policy experts from Council members.

On May 28, the Council welcomed Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey for a conversation on emerging policy issues and priorities in her office. Prior guests at these forums have included Congressman Richard Neal; Mass. Senate President Karen Spilka and other state legislative leaders as well as national experts on state tax and fiscal policy.

Contact Mark Gallagher for information on how to register and attend upcoming meetings.

**Update on Exclusive Council Member Benefits**

**Unlocking the Potential of Women:** Beginning June 1, more than 160 participants from 25 Council member organizations will participate in *Unlocking the Potential of Women*, a six-week virtual learning experience to empower both male and female leaders to recognize and deliver the full potential of women in the workplace. The Council’s Women in Leadership initiative, together with knowledge partner, McKinsey & Co., have come together to provide this special free offer exclusively to Council members.

**Health & Wellness Program with AllWays Health Partners** The Council is partnering with AllWays Health Partners to provide our members with 51-750 employees exclusive access to a new health and wellness product with features typically found in Fortune-500 employer plans, including telemedicine features, expanded services and lower costs. Contact Bernie Prusaczyk for more information on how this program can help your organization.
The Massachusetts High Technology Council, Inc. is an organization of CEOs and senior executives representing technology companies, professional services firms, and research institutions who are dedicated to creating and sustaining conditions that support investment, job growth and improved quality of life in Massachusetts. Our members are growth-oriented, knowledge-intensive employers and institutions that develop, deliver and depend on technology products, services and innovations to advance their organizational objectives—a definition which covers just about all business enterprises in Massachusetts today.

Our mission is to help make Massachusetts the world’s most attractive place in which to live and work, and in which to create, operate, and grow high technology businesses.

For more information visit our website.