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CODE Assisting Hispanic Leaders With Training Program

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A community organization known for housing and neighborhood revitalization is assisting Hispanic community leaders with job training for those who speak Spanish.

Recently, Patrick Morris, CODE Inc. executive director, spoke about several initiatives CODE is involved in throughout the area during a Jamestown City Council Housing Committee meeting. One of those initiatives he spoke about was a job training program for native Spanish speakers.

During the meeting, he said CODE is assisting in starting a six- to eight-week job training program to help Spanish speakers receive employment. He said CODE is working with one particular employer, who has a need for about 20 employees who need to go through the job training program.

Morris told *The Post-Journal* that he couldn't disclose who the employer is who needs the Spanish speaking employees. He did say CODE officials are working with the Rev. Alfonso Pagan and Max Martin, members of the Hispanic Coalition of Chautauqua County and the Hispanic Immersion Action Team, to start the job training program.

Morris said they will take their time in preparing the job training program to make sure they have everything they need, like

From left, Patrick Morris, CODE Inc. executive director; Brent Sheldon, Ward 1 councilman; Maria Jones, Ward 5 councilwoman; Marie Carrubba, Ward 4 councilwoman; Victoria James; Ward 3 councilwoman; and Gregory Rabb, Jamestown City Council president; during a City Council Housing Committee meeting Feb. 21. Morris gave a report on CODE activities happening in the city including a job training program for those who speak Spanish.



P-J photo by Dennis Phillips

the necessary funding, before starting the initiative. He said there is a possibility state funding could be available for the program. He added, hopefully, they will be holding a public meeting in future months to inform the public about the need for job training program for Spanish speakers.

"We are still working through the details. We are rolling it out slowly. (We're) not ramping it up too fast," he said. "We want to make sure the proposal is feasible for the employer. We are taking it nice and slow."

Morris said there will be jobs available immediately for those who take the job training program once it is started. He said background checks and other job hiring procedures will take place before someone can participate in the program. He added the employer will be very

involved in the training.

"The jobs are ready and waiting to go. We're not going to train people and then look for jobs. The jobs have been identified," he said.

How did an organization like CODE, which is known for housing and neighborhood revitalization, get involved in a job training program? Morris said CODE looks at the ongoing needs in the community and gets involved when they can assist. He said if the job training program is started, once it is underway the program won't be operated by CODE, but by the employer.

"At the end of it, we won't be providing the service. We are just helping to nurture it along. Near-term, we are involved. Long-term, we will be stepping out of it and letting the employer and the Hispanic Coalition run with it."