

## CBJ Morning Buzz: Local notables among execs tapped for Trump's advisory groups; Health systems pause plans for field hospital; Banks grapple with tech problems

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“Several names that are notable in Charlotte business circles are on a list of appointees for President Donald Trump's "Great American Economic Revival Industry Groups" released yesterday.

The list includes business executives, heads of unions and professional associations as well as leaders of sports leagues. They are grouped by industry and tasked with working together in conjunction with the White House "to chart the path forward" on economic recovery in the wake of the novel coronavirus pandemic.

Marvin Ellison, CEO of home-improvement giant Lowe's Cos. Inc. (NYSE: LOW), and Darius Adamczyk, who leads manufacturing giant Honeywell International Inc. (NYSE: HON), were the only locals named to the groups on the initial list.

Ellison is part of the retail group, along with CEO Rodney McMullen of Kroger Co. (NYSE: KR), the Cincinnati-based parent of the Harris Teeter supermarket chain, which has its base in Matthews.

Adamczyk, who is in the defense group, has already made an appearance alongside Trump in recent weeks, touting Honeywell's manufacturing shift to make much-needed N95 masks for health-care workers.

Later, Nucor Corp. (NYSE: NUE) CEO Leo Topalian's name appeared on an updated list. Topalian just took the helm of the Charlotte-based steelmaker at the beginning of this year, but his predecessor at the company was a vocal proponent of the Trump administration's policies on metal imports.

On the list of bank executives are Brian Moynihan, CEO of Charlotte-based Bank of America Corp. (NYSE: BAC), and Charles Scharf, CEO of Wells Fargo & Co. (NYSE: WFC), which keeps its headquarters in San Francisco but has a major presence here. But neither of the heads of

Charlotte's biggest banks by deposits and employment, respectively, live in the area — Moynihan calls Boston home, while Scharf resides in New York.

And under a category for "thought leaders" is John Allison, a Charlotte-area native who is now retired but whose background includes serving as CEO of BB&T Corp. and head of the Cato Institute, and Jim DeMint, a Republican former Congressman from South Carolina and one-time president of the Heritage Foundation.

A report from The Wall Street Journal indicates Trump held phone calls yesterday with some of the task force's appointees. Some reportedly stressed the need for more testing for COVID-19, the respiratory illness caused by the novel coronavirus, before the public returns to dining out at restaurants, shopping at retail establishments and other activities. Moynihan, for his part, thinks focusing on the virus first — before pushing a return to normalcy — is key, according to a report from Politico.

The creation of the advisory groups comes as Trump has been pushing to reopen the U.S. economy, even going so far this week as to claim he has "total" authority on the matter. The president has since walked back that statement and is expected today to release guidelines for governors who are looking at ways to ease restrictions in their states.

Gov. Roy Cooper has already started discussing some of the protocols that may be necessary for North Carolinians to go back to work and school.