

Atlantic City joins Bloomberg Philanthropies competition to solve city concerns

ERIN SERPICO Staff Writer

ATLANTIC CITY — The city is one of more than 500 around the country jumping into a national competition for \$5 million to help solve city problems.

The resort joined the 2017 Mayors Challenge, a nationwide competition hosted by Bloomberg Philanthropies for cities around the country, to identify pressing city issues and give cities the chance to win money to implement ideas.

There are 555 cities that have signed up to participate in the challenge, according to Bloomberg Philanthropies.

Come January, 35 cities will be named “Champion Cities” and will receive \$100,000 to implement an idea. Five finalists will be chosen in October 2018, one of which will win \$5 million.

The four other cities will receive \$1 million each.

“Regardless of how we fare in the contest, Atlantic City will move forward with initiatives to bring more jobs and better training to our City,” Mayor Don Guardian said in a statement.

Bloomberg Philanthropies brought an all-day workshop with public officials and business leaders into the city Friday morning to focus on idea development and skill training to identify the city’s concerns and how to address them.

"The incredible response to this year's Challenge really shows how cities are taking the reins to drive our nation forward – and how eager mayors from both parties are to collaborate and try new things," Michael R. Bloomberg, founder of Bloomberg Philanthropies, said in a statement. "We're looking forward to seeing the great ideas that cities propose and develop through the Challenge."