

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

September 8, 2021

The Richmond Economic Development Commission's monthly meeting convened at 11:30 AM on September 8, 2021, via Zoom webinar.

Call to Order 11:40 PM by Chair, A. Nurse

1. **Roll Call:**

A quorum was present with commission members: A. Nurse, A. Anderson, G. Sewell-Murphy, T. Brown, K. James, R. Yazdi, D. Wear, B. Evans, A. Shields, O. Willis,

2. **Absent:**

K. Lynch, J. Lee, and L. Dandle

3. **Staff:**

Thomas Omolo, Gabino Arredondo, Shasa Curl, Samantha Carr, Kyle Lam, Desiree Johnson

4. **Council Liaison:**

Demnlus Johnson III

5. **Guest:**

Kyle Tankard, Judith Taylor, and Alicia Gallo

6. **Minutes:**

1st – G. Sewell-Murphy, 2nd – K. James and Unanimous Approval

7. **Presentation:**

Kyle Tankard, City of Richmond Cannabis Social Equity – SCI Consulting group presented the Cannabis Equity Assessment and Equity Program Development Steps. Kyle provided progress for completing the Equity Assessment and the development of the Equity Program. Past outreach and education efforts include 7 one-on-one stakeholder interviews from August 16, 2021 – August 27, 2021. Next steps include hosting virtual community meeting to public on September 23rd, finalizing equity assessment report with presentation to City Council in October, and completion of equity ordinance draft in October with presentation to EDC in November. EDC recommended to include race and demographic information in the Equity Assessment.

Judith Taylor, *HR&A* – Provided overview and status of Richmond’s Business Investment and Attraction Strategy and discussed strategy, recommendations, and the timing of implementation. The strategies developed aim to create a culture of partnership and trust with stakeholders, strengthen the City’s business environment, and identify funding infrastructure investments to the built environment. Discussed strategy, recommendations, and implementation timing.

Commissioner Wear raised concern of community engagement and outreach; will be discussed in next meeting.

Samantha Carr, City Manager’s Office – Economic Development Department, Quarterly Updates Discussed Economic Development Accomplishments and Updates during Quarter 4, Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

8. **Committee Reports:**

- Policy – No update
- Community Engagement – No update
- Taste of Richmond – No update
- Cannabis – Will be meeting to discuss SCI Consulting presentation.
- Sustainability: Businesses/Industrial Hemp & Expo/Assessment: No update. Discussed mission draft in Agenda Packet

9. **Report from City Council:** No report received

10. **Staff Reports:**

Finance Department:

Desiree Johnson, Update on Measure U from: Going to City Council next month about administrative release to clarify grey areas of Measure U and business tax ordinances. Have been working with Managements Partners on community outreach. Have also been updating website with new information. Currently in processing of finalizing FAQ document and improving customer response.

City Manager's Office

Community Benefits Policy – Email Update will be Sent to Commissioners
Thomas Omolo, BAUM Manufacturing Day – Historically, a day to visit a manufacturing site within Richmond and to have discussions with the manufacturers and owners. Assessed comfort levels and interests of commissioners in participating in a manufacturing day.

Mayor's Office

Update on Commissioners – No update, there are still two commissioner vacancies.

11. **Public Comments/Announcements/Handouts Presentation:**

Alicia Gallo announced a free program by Richmond Main Street for small businesses to start or upgrade their business. Program is twenty self-paced modules and also includes coaching, mentorship, and financial incentives. Additional information and promotional toolkit will be released in coming weeks. Invites community engagement team to promote program to small businesses in Richmond.

Cordell left a comment for public record that his surprise project is coming along well.

12. **Next meeting:** October 13, 2021

13. **Adjournment:** 1:14 PM