



Charlotte City Council  
Economic Development Committee  
Summary  
January 18, 2022

---

**COMMITTEE AGENDA TOPICS**

Level Setting Expectations

**COMMITTEE INFORMATION**

---

**Committee Members Present:** Malcolm Graham (Chair), Ed Driggs (Vice-Chair), Dimple Ajmera and Greg Phipps

**Committee Members Absent:** Victoria Watlington

**City Manager Liaison:** Tracy Dodson, City Manager's Office

**Staff Resources:** Christina Thigpen, Economic Development Department  
Holly Eskridge, Economic Development Department  
Corey Settles, Corridors of Opportunity Executive, Economic Development Department

**Meeting Duration:** Noon-12:43p.m.

**ATTACHMENTS**

---

1) Presentation Slides: City Council Priorities/Economic Development Work Priorities

---

**DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS**

---

Chairman Graham called the virtual meeting to order and asked committee members and City staff to introduce themselves.

**Level Setting Expectations**

Chairman Graham shared the purpose of the meeting was to discuss expectations for the new committee and to hear from staff and level set expectations for the Economic Development Committee to identify items to bring forward in 2022. The committee members will have an opportunity to provide input on the new 30-60-90-day workplan to greater align the work and upcoming topics.

Tracy Dodson started the discussion and reminded the committee of information that was shared at the Council Retreat in the fall of 2021 where they discussed City Council priorities on key initiatives that interconnected to other committees. She also pointed out that in recent years, items presented to the previous Workforce & Business Development were more around key economic development initiatives and pilot projects but not a lot of policy work. Based on those conversations, Ms. Dodson outlined the five buckets of current Economic Development work priorities for the committee's consideration to develop the 2022 workplan:

- *Corridors of Opportunity*
  - Quarterly updates of external/internal integration
  - Albemarle Road Small Business Ecosystem Study
  - Future Projects
  - Targeted Initiatives (*public safety in Sugar Creek*)
  - Corridor Specific Implementation Strategies
- *HIRE Charlotte*
  - **BIG Policy**
  - HIRE Charlotte – Preliminary Findings
  - Proposed Framework
  - Implementation & Future Phase
  - RENEW Recap & Next Steps
- *Public Private Partnerships*
  - **TIG Policy**
  - Eastland Updates
  - Atrium Innovation Campus (*community initiatives*)
- *Small Business & Entrepreneurship*
  - Charlotte is Open for Business (*website launch*)
  - Recovering Small Business and Entrepreneurial Ecosystem
  - Small Business Month Strategy
  - MWSBE Support Updates
  - NLC Inclusive Entrepreneurship Initiative
  - AMP Up Charlotte Update
- *Miscellaneous items*
  - Arts & Culture Plan
  - CBI Updates
  - UDO Economic Analysis
  - Special Events/Permitting

### Committee Discussion

Councilmember Ajmera asked staff to consider adding the overarching citywide policy to apply equity in everything we do to the work priorities since this would be coming to other committees for discussion.

Councilmember Phipps asked the committee to consider hosting a few committee meetings in the community on occasions to get their feedback.

Vice Chairman Driggs suggested using the ED Committee meetings as a portal to the business community to clarify the City's role in big business decisions as well as commitments that align with the City's debt.

To frame the discussion for committee workplans, staff will share the Economic Development Committee workplan at the February 7 City Council Strategy Session for further discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 12:43p.m.