



**TO:** Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager  
**FROM:** Jeff Robinson, Community and Economic Development Department  
**COPY:** Economic Development Committee; Tadd Wille, Assistant City Manager  
**PRESENTERS:** Jeff Robinson, Community & Economic Development (CED)  
**SUBJECT:** CED COVID-19 Update – Response, Recovery & Resilience  
**DATE:** September 29, 2020

**PRESENTATION TYPE:**

Informational Briefing

**SUMMARY:**

This briefing to the Economic Development Committee (EDC) by CED on COVID-related projects, programs and initiatives of interest and those that which are pertinent to the committee’s work. This report will focus on CED activities and outcomes from March 2020 to September 2020, and plans for near-term and longer-range initiatives and activities moving forward into recovery and resiliency efforts focused on local business and industry sectors, including BIPOC owned and operated enterprise. Staff will discuss limitations and opportunities for tracking local business closures related to COVID-19.

**BACKGROUND:**

At the September 23, 2020, EDC meeting, EDC members requested a presentation to provide more information on the economic impacts of COVID-19 on the business community in Tacoma. This included a request for information on what businesses across the City have received assistance from CARES act funding, and whether or not businesses that received funding were still operating. Council members also asked what mechanisms are in place for the city to track when a business closes. Council Members requested data be included in each of these answers related to geography, race and gender demographics, and business sector.

During the early stages of the COVID-19 crisis CED undertook several initiatives to inform and assist the business and development sectors in ways to mitigate and prepare for the expected and resulting far-reaching impacts caused by the pandemic. During this period, CED also continued with its non-COVID related activities and work plan elements in the areas of business retention and expansion, technical assistance, recruitment, development assistance and financing. As the impacts of the pandemic have continued, CED is taking steps to assist the local business community with recovery and resiliency efforts.

**ISSUE:**

This COVID-related update to the EDC will inform the committee and receive committee input regarding current and planned projects, economic development activities and programmatic efforts as they pertain to the City’s COVID-19 emergency response and the planned activities and programs moving forward into the economic recovery efforts. The discussion will include results from recent small business loans, feedback from businesses, 2020 Business Retention and Expansion efforts, technical assistance activities, business closure tracking and other areas of interest to the EDC.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

This is an information briefing only. There are no alternatives presented.



**FISCAL IMPACT:**

This is an information briefing only. There is no fiscal impact.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

This is an information briefing only. There is no recommendation.