



# City of Tacoma Economic Development Committee Minutes

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 882 2753 9908

Webinar Link: [www.zoom.us/j/88227539908](http://www.zoom.us/j/88227539908) Passcode: 614650

**July 13, 2021**

**10:00 AM**

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Chair Robert Thoms, Vice Chair Conor McCarthy, Keith Blocker,  
Catherine Ushka, Chris Beale (alternate)

## Call To Order

Vice Chair McCarthy called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

## Roll Call

**Present:** 3 - Blocker, McCarthy and Ushka

**Absent:** 1 - Thoms

All Council Members participated virtually.

## Briefing Items

1. [21-0664](#)

Workforce Recovery

[Katie Condit, Chief Executive Officer, Workforce Central]

At approximately 10:05 a.m., Katie Condit, Chief Executive Officer, WorkForce Central, presented on workforce recovery, including an introduction, noting Pierce County system goals, outcomes, services for job seekers, solutions for businesses, and systems alignment; Pierce County labor supply and demand; hiring and layoff aversion; training, upskilling, and reskilling; job seeker support; Pierce County Community Engagement Task Force; and priority populations: youth and adults.

Discussion ensued regarding support for those getting their high school diploma, trend of people changing jobs or not returning to work, growth of demand for WorkForce Central services, the upcoming job fair at the Greater Tacoma Convention Center, outreach announcing that WorkForce Central has reopened, past job fairs, and funding sources of the Bates Technical College and Clover Park efforts.

2. [21-0665](#) Small Business Assistance  
[Jeff Robinson, Community & Economic Development Director]

At approximately 10:25 a.m., Jeff Robinson, Director, Community and Economic Development (CED), introduced Dierdre Patterson, Contract and Program Auditor, and Carol Wolfe, Division Manager, CED. Together, they presented on small business financial assistance, including an overview; current City loan programs; a 2020-2021 COVID-19 funding overview, noting sources, and unmet demand in Tacoma; small business recipient demographics, noting ethnicity, woman-owned businesses, percentage of recipients by race, 2020 versus 2021 loan comparison by race, and business type and sector; Equity Index analysis; next steps; Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and the Economic Security Act, and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) small business funding.

Discussion ensued regarding whether loan data and grant funding are publicly available to view online, ARPA spending requests for the City Council, offering business grants versus loans, other uses for ARPA funds, next steps and outreach, how the construction industry was impacted by COVID-19, financial support for single owner/employee businesses, potential for cultural ambassadors, the amount of grant applications that were rejected and why, potential creation of a business stakeholders group to direct the ARPA funds, outdoor seating, connecting with employers in the City, and the number of business licenses in Tacoma.

## Topics for Upcoming Meetings

3. [21-0666](#) July 27, 2021 - Outdoor dining update; American Rescue Plan Act

Lynda Foster, Committee Liaison, stated the next meeting will be on July 27, 2021, and will include updates on outdoor dining and ARPA funding.

## Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.

## Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

## Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.



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Robert Thoms, Chair



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Jered Lobban, City Clerk's Office