



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Jeff Robinson, Director, Community & Economic Development (CEDD)
COPY: Economic Development Committee; Cathy Sims; Jeff Robinson; Carol Wolfe
PRESENTER: Carol Wolfe, Community & Economic Development, Patricia Colemon and Annie Jones-Barnes, Colemon & Associates
SUBJECT: 2023 BIPOC Chamber Feasibility Study Update
DATE: May 9, 2023

PRESENTATION TYPE:
Informational Briefing

SUMMARY:
The Community & Economic Development Department and Colemon & Associates will provide information related to the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funded BIPOC Chamber Feasibility Study by Colemon & Associates.

BACKGROUND:
In 2021 CED was competitively awarded \$400,000 in grant funds to address inequities brought forth by the COVID-19 pandemic for minority-owned small businesses. Of the \$400,000, \$60,000 was allocated to support the exploration of a BIPOC Chamber (the remaining \$340,000 was allocated to support direct technical assistance programs). In addition to the \$60,000 from the EDA, council directed an additional \$50,000 in ARPA funds to support this effort. Colemon & Associates was selected to complete the feasibility study and has been actively conducting the study since November 2022.

ISSUE:
CEDD Staff and Colemon & Associates will provide an update on the feasibility study as of March 2023.

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:

- CEDD staff recommends a final presentation from Colemon & Associates including their findings and recommendations to the EDC on one of the following dates in August:
- August 22nd, 2023
- August 29th, 2023