



# City of Tacoma Economic Development Committee Minutes

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 841 6094 2983 Passcode: 614650

Webinar Link: [www.zoom.us/j/84160942983](https://www.zoom.us/j/84160942983)

**September 29, 2020**

**10:00 AM**

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

## Call To Order

Chair Thoms called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

## Roll Call

**Present:** 4 - Blocker, McCarthy, Thoms and Ushka

All Council Members participated virtually.

## Briefing Items

### 1. [20-0642](#)

Community and Economic Development COVID-19 Update -  
Response, Recovery, and Resilience

[Jeff Robinson, Director, Community and Economic Development]

At approximately 10:01 a.m., Jeff Robinson, Director, Community and Economic Development (CED), introduced Danielle Larson, Tax and License Manager, Finance; Elly Walkowiak, Assistant Director; Carole Wolfe, Division Manager; and Linda Womack, Supervisor, CED. Mr. Robinson presented an overview of the economic impacts of COVID-19 on business communities, including efforts to track business closures and the number of business retention and expansion visits (BREs) conducted by sector. Ms. Walkowiak reviewed the sectors of the BREs and their specific concerns. Mr. Robinson outlined local, regional, and Statewide surveys; and financial and technical assistance, noting the Stabilization Loan Fund, the geographical distribution and the demographic diversity of business owners approved for loan funds, and the Minority Business Development Association's (MBDA) COVID-19 related technical assistance. Ms. Womack reviewed the MBDA assistance approval rates. Mr. Robinson concluded by reviewing the number of businesses that received loan funds, how many businesses are still open and how many have closed, and upcoming financial and technical assistance.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding a potential dashboard or list of business closure information, outreach to include resources and support information, the number of businesses licensed in the City, survey work, business closure locations, sources of funds, businesses' concerns, outreach to minority- and women-owned businesses and tracking effectiveness of the outreach, and the demographic diversity of business owners approved for the Stabilization Loan Fund.

## **Topics for Upcoming Meetings**

2.      [20-0643](#)      October 13, 2020 - City Events and Recognition Committee Interviews

Chair Thoms stated the next meeting will be on October 13, 2020, and will include interviews for the City Events and Recognition Committee.

## **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 10:50 a.m.

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Robert Thoms, Chair

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Mary Crabtree, City Clerk's Office