



## **Business and Economic Development Taskforce Charter**

### **PURPOSE**

The work of this committee shall serve as a support to businesses that, in accordance with the purpose and intent of approved County plans, are seeking to locate, grow, and prosper within our community. By streamlining processes, cultivating business opportunities, curtailing bureaucracy, and facilitating responsible and beneficial redevelopment, the hope is that equitable opportunity can be realized throughout all our communities. Every year, local government spends billions on tax breaks and other subsidies in the name of economic development, but these investments often fail to deliver desired jobs, business opportunities, and other needed good and services throughout Wyandotte. This committee will work to ensure that public investments foster responsible, equitable, inclusive, reimaged, development throughout all Wyandotte County | Kansas City, Kansas.

To build an equitable economy, equity needs to be thoroughly baked into economic development policies, strategies, and investments at the onset. This means dramatically shifting the practice of economic development from costly “deals” toward a more comprehensive approach that strengthens their economies through greater participation, opportunity, and ownership for disenfranchised and disinvested areas in Wyandotte County. It also means creating inclusive business opportunities for firms of color, women-owned firms, and disadvantaged businesses by removing any barriers to equitable business and economic development access for all interested in doing business with the Unified Government.

### **LEADERSHIP**

The Steering Committee of the Taskforce is comprised of a chairperson, and three additional chairpersons, all appointed by the Mayor. The Steering Committee is responsible for developing strategy and establishing timelines and goals for the Taskforce. Steering Committee co-chairs, along with other community leaders, also chair one of seven ad-hoc committees: WMBE, Local and Small to Mid-Sized Business Enterprises, Economic Development, Investor, Labor Relations, Construction, Legal, and Housing. Ad-Hoc committee chairs are appointed by the Chairman to serve one-year terms.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

The membership of this committee is comprised of community members, content area experts and service providers, and Unified Government employees. Members are encouraged attend Taskforce meetings and are assigned by the Steering Committee to serve on at least one (1) Ad Hoc committee.



## **OPERATIONS**

1. The Taskforce shall hold regular meetings at least four times per year and report to the Mayor on a regular basis. Meetings shall include any participants the Steering Committee deems appropriate and shall be of sufficient duration and scheduled at such times as the Steering Committee deems appropriate to discharge properly its responsibilities. The Chairman generally attends and leads regularly scheduled quarterly meetings of the Taskforce.
2. The Steering Committee shall meet monthly, or as deemed necessary and appropriate, in separate executive sessions with the mayor and with management, through the assigned Assistant County Administrator.
3. The Steering Committee shall receive information and participate in informal meetings and briefings with the mayor and with management, through the assigned Assistant County Administrator as necessary and appropriate between formal meetings of the Taskforce. Such briefings and informal meetings may be through the Chair, Ad Hoc Committee Chairs, or individual Taskforce members, as appropriate.
4. The Steering Committee may form and delegate to one or more Ad Hoc Committees all or any portion of their authority, duties, and responsibilities, and may establish such rules as it determines necessary or appropriate to conduct the Taskforce's business.
5. The Steering Committee shall have direct access to, and complete and open communication with the mayor and with management, through the assigned Assistant County Administrator, and may obtain advice and assistance from internal legal or other advisors to assist it.
6. The Unified Government shall provide for appropriate support, as determined by the Steering Committee, necessary or appropriate to carry out its duties and responsibilities.
7. The Taskforce shall review and assess its performance at least quarterly and report the results of Ad-Hoc committee outcomes and impact at the Taskforce meeting.
8. The Taskforce shall review and assess the adequacy of this charter annually and, if appropriate, recommend changes to the charter to the Steering Committee.



## **AUTHORITY AND ENGAGEMENT**

The development and operationalization of this taskforce has been initiated at the request of the Mayor. As a result, all decision-making requests will first be fielded through the Mayor's Office. The criteria for approval will reflect a thorough review using the following assessment: 1) Is it reasonable, 2) is it responsible, 3) is it legal, and 4) is it actionable.

Upon his approval, the Mayor and Chairperson will move the requests to the appropriate next step based on the type of the consideration. All considerations, whether policy and practice, charter ordinance or budgetary in nature will be reviewed by and advanced by the County Administration when appropriate.

All decisions and deliverables of the taskforce are to be community driven and encompass the vision of all branches of local government, when appropriate.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES AND DELIVERABLES**

The Taskforce shall:

1. Streamline and expedite processes and other matters concerning small and local business development, resource access and policy,
2. Build a balanced economic growth plan to actualize a diversified economic, industrial, residential housing and commercial development strategy,
3. Establish a strategic plan and procedures to properly identify, assess and dispose of, renovate, or properly develop vacant and under capacity UG properties, land bank properties and other underutilized green spaces for economic development purposes,
4. Promote the redevelopment of business corridors through incentive programs,
5. Access various local, state, and federal government grant resources for the purpose of business and economic development,
6. Explore the reduction or elimination of pilots, taxes, and fees from start to finish for any housing development projects in Wyandotte County | Kansas City, Kansas,
7. Explore pilot or tax abatements and/or rebates for purchasing owners of residential or multi-unit properties,
8. Review and make policy recommendations for expanding opportunities and ordinance compliance enforcement (Article V. Division 2. MBE/WBE Program for Construction Contracts exceeding \$ 250,000.00),



9. Examine the protocols, scope, and authority of the DRC board.

Identified Strategic Goals

Goal One: Establish a baseline understanding of areas in need of improvement and identify areas of opportunity.

Goal Two: Propose projects, establish timelines for implementation, and identify capital investments and funding.

Goal Three: Mobilize community residents and seek support for identified goals.

Coordination with Management and Other Taskforces

1. Coordinate with leadership and management, including the Mayor and County Administrator (which coordination may be through the Steering Committee) to help ensure that the taskforce has received the information necessary to permit them to fulfill their duties and responsibilities with respect to oversight of risk management and risk assessment guidelines and policies.

Other Authority

1. Make such recommendations with respect to any of the above and any other matters as the Taskforce deems necessary or appropriate.
2. Have such other authority, duties or responsibilities as may be delegated to the Taskforce by the Mayor.

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Chairman

Mayor

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Date

Date