


Date: July 2, 2024

To: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager 

From: Bo Martinez, Director, Economic Development 

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: Economic Development Commission 2023 Annual Report

In accordance with the Long Beach Municipal Code 2.18.090, we transmit the Economic Development Commission's 2023 Annual Report (attached) to the Mayor and City Council.

If you have any questions, please contact Julian Cernuda, Business Development Bureau Manager, at (562) 570-6154.

ATTACHMENT

CC: DAWN A. MCINTOSH, CITY ATTORNEY
DOUGLAS P. HAUBERT, CITY PROSECUTOR
LAURA L. DOUD, CITY AUDITOR
APRIL WALKER, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
TERESA CHANDLER, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
MEREDITH REYNOLDS, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
GRACE YOON, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
TYLER BONANNO-CURLEY, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
KEVIN LEE, CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
MONIQUE DE LA GARZA, CITY CLERK
DEPARTMENT HEADS

2023 Annual Report for the City of Long Beach Economic Development Commission as outlined in the Long Beach Municipal Code (LBMC) (Chapter 2.18.090 - ADVISORY BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES).

Objectives and Functions

The duties of the Economic Development Commission (Commission) shall be to advise and recommend to the City Council and the City Manager on matters pertaining to activities affecting economic development within the City, in the creation of private-sector employment opportunities and business ventures, on methods of coordinating economic efforts, and more specifically to advise and recommend to the City Council concerning the following:

- The evaluation of research concerning economic growth patterns of the community
- The identification of economic development needs and opportunities in the community and the recommendation of program strategies for implementation by City staff
- The evaluation and recommendation of marketing plans for economic development programs
- Any other areas or topics relating to Economic Development as directed by the City Council

Recommendations Presented to City Council

No recommendations were presented to City Council in 2023.

Meetings Held in 2023

In 2023, the Commission conducted five public meetings and reviewed the following topics:

January 9, 2023

- Presentation on Economic Development Department communications and outreach for economic development support programs in October, November, and December 2022
- Presentation on Long Beach Accelerator
- Presentation by Office of the Mayors Fund for Education on childcare opportunities in the City of Long Beach

In attendance: Walter Larkins (Chair), Vivian Shimoyama (Vice Chair), Blair Cohn, Austin Metoyer, Nima Novin, Jayro Sandoval, Robert Smith, Griselda Suarez, John Thomas

February 13, 2023

- Presentation on Economic Development Department communications and outreach for economic development support programs in January 2023

- Presentation by Department of Health and Human Services on Built to Zero Initiative
- Presentation by Department of Economic Development on Visual Improvement Program (VIP) Grant

In attendance: Walter Larkins (Chair), Vivian Shimoyama (Vice Chair), Blair Cohn, Milton Dueña, Austin Metoyer, Nima Novin, Jayro Sandoval, Robert Smith, Griselda Suarez, John Thomas, Brenda Wunsch

March 13, 2023

- Update on Economic Development Department communications and outreach for economic development support programs in February 2023
- Update on development of the Street Vendor Initiative presented by City Manager's Office

In attendance: Walter Larkins (Chair), Vivian Shimoyama (Vice Chair), Blair Cohn, Austin Metoyer, Nima Novin, Jayro Sandoval, Robert Smith, Griselda Suarez, John Thomas, Brenda Wunsch

April 26, 2023

- Cancelled Due to Lack of Quorum

May 8, 2023

- Update on Economic Development Department communications and outreach for economic support programs in March 2023
- Update given by Office of Equity on the City's implementation of racial equity and inclusion initiatives
- Update given by Department of Economic Development on North Pine St. Plan

In attendance: Walter Larkins (Chair), Vivian Shimoyama (Vice Chair), Blair Cohn, Austin Metoyer, Nima Novin, Jayro Sandoval, Robert Smith, Griselda Suarez

August 11, 2023

- Commission conducted a workshop to prioritize objectives for each of the Economic Development Blueprint 2.0 Focus Areas.

In attendance: meeting minutes forthcoming.

Commission Subcommittees

Revolving Loan Fund Subcommittee

The Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Subcommittee conducted public two meetings and reviewed the following topics:

September 12, 2023:

- Receive an update on the de-federalization of U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) funding and the plan to apply for additional EDA funding to recapitalize the RFL
- Receive an update on CDBG funding that was added to the RLF
- Receive an update on the RLF portfolio

October 26, 2023:

- Recommendation to approve the revolving loan application in the amount of \$75,000 for De Leon Auto Repair and Transmission
- Recommendation to approve the revolving loan application in the amount of \$75,000 for Gabriela Alcantara, G.P. DBA Alcantara's Auto Body

Number of Public Hearings Conducted

The Commission conducted no public hearing in 2023.

Funding Expended to Support the Body

Minimal funding was expended on supporting the Commission. Cost per meeting included office supplies and staff time to prepare reports and presentations.

City Personnel Assisting the Body

The Commission is staffed by the Economic Development Department. The primary individuals supporting the Commission in 2023 were:

- Bo Martinez, Director
- Julian Cernuda, Business Development Bureau Manager
- Courtney Chatterson, Special Projects Officer
- Carla Anguiano, Development Project Manager

Recommendation as to Whether the body Should be Abolished, Modified, or Continued

We recommend that the Commission continue due to the City's focus on the Blueprint, Grow Long Beach Initiative, and overall economic growth.