

Caroline Simmons
Mayor

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CITY OF STAMFORD
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

COMMISSION
James Huerta
Chairman

Stephen Fischer
Vice Chairman

Mark Diamond Esq.
Secretary

Margaret Feeney
Member

John Louizos Esq.
Member

Stamford Government Center-Stamford, Connecticut
Special Meeting- Thursday, May 19, 2022

A Special Meeting of the City of Stamford Economic Development Commission (EDC) Office of Economic Development (OED) was held on Thursday, May 19, 2022 at 12:04pm via Zoom Meeting.

1. Call to Order

Chairman Huerta called the meeting to order at 12:04pm.

2. Roll Call

Commissioners Present: James Huerta, Mark Diamond and John Louizos

Commissioner(s) Absent: Stephen Fischer and Margaret Feeney

Staff: Loren Nadres-Director, Economic Development and Leah Kagan-Special Assistant to the Mayor for Economic Development

Guest(s): Jeff Benson

3. Welcome John Louizos

Chairman Huerta welcomed Commissioner Louizos and asked him to say a few words about himself. Commissioner Louizos gave a brief bio on himself and welcome anyone to stop by for coffee or to grab lunch.

4. Reading and Acceptance of Minutes

a. Approval of minutes from the Regular Meeting held on March 10, 2022

Chairman Huerta asked if the Commissioners have read the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on March 10, 2022. Commissioner Diamond made a motion to approve with second by Chairman Huerta.

Commissioner Diamond: Yea

Commissioner Huerta: Yea

Commissioner Louizos abstained.

Motion passed.

5. Chairperson's Report

Chairman Huerta stated he would like the Commission to be part of the evaluation group when it comes to Economic Development RFP's and he will continue to push for that as much as he can. The economic development efforts at every level must continue to include everyone and to make sure the people who have been active out there working for economic development are staying in the loop.

6. Director's Report

Ms. Nadres reminded the Commission of the three main goals for the Mayor. Innovation, currently have a \$50 million application with the state to create an innovation hub. Second Business retention, the Mayor has a Business Advisory Council and the CT Restaurant Association to work with the 40 plus restaurants on how to best support them. Business attraction/development is something that we are quite actively focusing on. Ms. Nadres stated that they have kicked off the global Stamford initiative to be able to pitch Stamford to international businesses and tech startups that are looking to enter the North American market. Lastly, the Board of Finance approved the 1.5 million for grant support to small businesses. There will be an RFP posted to manage the grant.

7. Old Business**a. Minority Business Engagement Update**

Chairman Huerta reminded the Commission about the Minority Business Development Report that was issued about two and a half years ago that was drawn up by Dr. Tommie Jackson and himself. If anyone needs a copy, let him know.

b. Discuss Roles of Commissioners

Chairman Huerta mentioned that he was looking at the ordinances because every 10 years we have a committee that works with the Board of Representatives and that it was shared with the Commission. After review, with no additional changes and he stated this item can be removed from Old Business.

8. New Business**a. Next Meeting****i. Discussion-Next Meeting Agenda**

Commissioner Louizos for next agenda requested Stamford Transportation Center and more info on the 50 million grant.

ii. Confirmation-Next Regular Meeting (Thursday, June 9, 2022 at 4pm)

Time and date was confirmed.

9. Public Comment

Mr. Benson asked if it has been determined the dollar amount of the 1.5 million grant and if there is a timeline. Ms. Nadres responded they are targeting approximately between 150 to 200 small business systems with up to \$7500 with a timeline of fall 2022 and winter 2023.

10. Adjournment

Chairman requested a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Diamond made a motion to adjourn the meeting with second from Commissioner Louizos at 12:36pm. Motion passed unanimously. With no further business to be discussed, the meeting was concluded.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark Diamond

Secretary-Economic Development Commission