

Date of Meeting: February 11, 2016

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**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
FINANCE/GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
INFORMATION ITEM**

SUBJECT: Economic Development Advisory Commission Update

ELECTION DISTRICT: Countywide

STAFF CONTACT: Buddy Rizer, Director, Department of Economic Development

EDAC CONTACTS: Sharon Virts, Chair, EDAC
Todd Pearson, Vice-Chair, EDAC

PURPOSE: Sharon Virts, Economic Development Advisory Commission (EDAC) Chair and Todd Pearson, EDAC Vice-Chair will update the Finance/Government Operations and Economic Development Committee on EDAC initiatives.

BACKGROUND: At the February 11, 2016 meeting, Sharon Virts and Todd Pearson will be present to report on the work of the EDAC and its Ad-Hoc Committees.

ISSUES: There are no issues associated with this Information Item.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no fiscal impact associated with this Information Item.

ATTACHMENT:

1. Economic Development Advisory Committee Report

LOUDOUN COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
ADVISORY COMMISSION

MEMORANDUM

Date: February 4, 2016
To: Finance/Government Operations Committee, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors
From: Sharon Virts and Todd Pearson, EDAC
Subject: Report of Activities

This memorandum summarizes the EDAC activities and planned events in the coming months

Current Ad Hoc Committees

Night-time Economy (NEAC Co-Chairs – Todd Pearson and Tony Howard) - The Nighttime Economy Ad-Hoc Committee has spent much of the month promoting the Public Input meeting that was originally scheduled for January 26, 2016 but was postponed due to snow. Articles published include interviews of the Co-Chairs and promotional pieces in both the *Washington Post* and *Loudoun Now* that gave NEAC's work positive reviews. The Public Input meeting has been rescheduled for February 9, 2016 from 6-8 pm at the Blvd Apartments Leasing Office in Loudoun Station. EDAC members are asking the business community to attend the meeting and are encouraging their employees who live in Loudoun or who would like to live in Loudoun to participate. Part of our objective is to get some younger workers involved in this important committee.

Foreign Direct Investment (Chair – Keith Segerson) - The objective of the FDI Ad Hoc is to continue its work with DED in the establishment of the public-private partnership to promote the investment of foreign businesses in the Loudoun economy. The committee is meeting with the Loudoun DED International Business Manager, Bob McCollar; Business Manager, Rick Morris; and Director, Buddy Rizer on Friday February 5 to kick-off the follow-up activities of this committee. The expanded charter of the follow-up effort will be fully defined in this first meeting. Committee membership includes the FDI Ad Hoc Chair, Keith Segerson, and EDAC commissioners: Rick Pearson, Will Turner, Jennifer Faust and Omari Faulkner.

EDAC Strategic Direction for 2016 - EDAC is evaluating a number of initiatives to review this year. Some of those initiatives include providing input to the Comprehensive Plan effort this year as well as reviewing policies and barriers that may impact economic development initiatives around the Silver Line, Dulles Airport, and Loudoun's Data Centers. Workforce Housing and housing inventory will continue to be an issue that we will weigh in on. Outcomes of the NEAC will also impact our agenda for this year.

1 Harrison Street, S.E. • 5th Floor • PO Box 7000 • Leesburg, VA 20177
Tel: 703.777.0426 • Fax: 703.771.5363

biz.loudoun.gov/EDAC

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EDAC Bylaws and Membership - EDAC Bylaws must be modified to accommodate the change in the EDAC reporting from the Economic Development Committee to the Finance/Government Operations Committee. Additionally, EDAC Executive Committee requests that the Board of Supervisors consider modifying the by-laws to increase the membership of the EDAC from 18 voting members to 22 voting members and the non-voting advisory membership from 7 advisors to 9 advisors. Our concern is that the limitation of the 18 voting-member requirement may impact our effectiveness as an advisory body going forward. Our current membership does not provide adequate representation of all the clusters (e.g. Health) and we have cluster areas that need additional expertise. An example of this is in the Aviation/Transportation/ Logistics cluster. While we do have a member that represents the Aviation sector well, we do not have a member with expertise in the "Transportation" part of that cluster. With emphasis on the development of the silver line, concerns regarding ingress and egress to the stations, and the issues confronting Metro in general, we would like to search for a member who has expertise in mass transit. The second challenge is simply having enough members to get all the work done. Most of our commissioners are busy executives and, while eager to volunteer their time, there is more work than people for adequate support of the ad hoc committees we have planned. We are also proposing that the by-laws allow us to add two special non-voting advisory members. With the future of Dulles so tightly linked to the future of our county, we'd like to add a representative from the airport on the commission. We would also request that the EDAC include representation from our public schools and suggest that we include the Superintendent of Schools as a non-voting special advisor.