



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT • 1140 Terex Road • Hudson, Ohio 44236 • (330) 342-1790

## MEMORANDUM

Date: December 17, 2024  
To: City Council  
From: Economic Growth Board  
Katie Behnke, Economic Development Manager  
CC: Greg Hannan, Community Development Director  
Re: Economic Growth Board Goals and Priorities

### **Background**

At the request of City Council, each Board and Commission will annually present goals and priorities to City Council for discussion annually. The Economic Growth Board has prepared a presentation to summarize their accomplishments from the last year and their goals and objectives for the coming twelve months.

### **2024 Accomplishments**

In April 2024, the Economic Growth Board hosted the second Summer Job Fair after receiving positive feedback from the first event in May 2023. The goal of the event is to bring employers into the High School so that students could learn about job opportunities in an approachable way was the best way to assist our business community. There were twenty-five employers in attendance. The Board attempted to use a survey to track student attendance and gather feedback but was met with student hesitancy to complete the online form.

In November 2024, the Economic Growth Board hosted the annual Business Breakfast in partnership with the Hudson Area Chamber of Commerce. The event had ninety-four attendees and featured a keynote speaker on Small Business Collaborations and recognition for business owners celebrating milestone anniversaries in the community.

Throughout 2024, the Economic Growth Board connected with restaurant and retail businesses through the Business Outreach Program. Business owners were invited to complete a survey to provide feedback to the City and update their contact information with the Economic Growth Board and Economic Development Staff.

### **Proposed 2025 Goals**

In 2025, the Board intends to improve upon the focus areas from 2024 including:

1. Host the Summer Job Fair in partnership with the Hudson High School and Chamber of Commerce in April 2025. Improvements for this year include a stronger strategy to collect attendance data.
2. Host the Business Breakfast in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce in November 2025 with new attendance tracking strategy and follow up with employers.
3. Continue to evolve business outreach efforts.
4. Review and provide feedback on Economic Development Staff strategic planning documents.