



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

MEMORANDUM

Date: January 26, 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

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.

Proposed 2024 Goals

In 2024, the Board intends to improve upon the focus areas from 2023 including:

1. Host the Summer Job Fair in partnership with the Hudson High School and Chamber of Commerce in April 2024. Improvements for this year include a stronger marketing plan since planning can begin sooner and more coordination with the school to prepare the students. The Economic Development Manager has already received several inquiries from the business community asking if the event will be scheduled again this year.
2. Host the Business Breakfast in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce in November 2024.
3. Complete the first year of the Business Outreach Program to directly engage with businesses, inform them of community resources, and obtain feedback on their experience operating a business in our community.

2023 Accomplishments

In May 2023, the Economic Growth Board hosted the first Summer Job Fair in response to small business feedback that teenagers have not returned to part time work following the pandemic. The Board brainstormed around solutions and determined that bringing the 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. Although the timeline was short to put the first event together, it was well received with twenty-four businesses and one hundred and fifty to two hundred students in attendance.

During the summer, the Board designed their Business Outreach Program in response to the priority established by City Council in the 2023 Goals Presentation meeting. Included in the program are customer facing businesses like retail stores, restaurants, salons, and fitness centers. An Economic Growth Board member has been assigned to each business and has committed to

one visit annually. During this visit, the Board members provide the business owner or manager with a business card with a QR code. The code provides them access to the newly created Economic Growth Board Outreach webpage and forms to update their contact information with the City to improve our business database and a survey about their experience operating a business in our community.

In November 2023, 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 three speakers on economic development for vibrant communities, AI, and sustainable energy.