



## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT TO COUNCIL**

June 20, 2023

### **MEETINGS**

- 5/18 -Meeting to discuss Area C planning RFP
- 5/19 -Front & Main pocket park planning meeting with landscape architect
- 5/24 -CIC Board meeting
- 5/25 -Meeting to discuss potential development at Bixby & Hendron Rds,
- 6/7 -Rickenbacker Stakeholders' Group meeting
- 6/8 -Meeting with Dave Kolbe/Kolbe Construction re: Lissy Bee's Boutique and Choptank tenant improvements
- 6/9 -Meeting with Brett Leukart/Leuco Construction re: Lissy Bee's Boutique and Choptank tenant improvements
- Economic Development Advisory Committee meeting at Upper Arlington
- Meeting with Mark Ours/ mode architects and Meg Mannion/ Choptank Agency re: Rarey's Port tenant improvements.

### **NOTES FROM COMPANY VISITS**

- No visits in June

### **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

- **Business Development Training** – Working with Mike Bowers from Columbus State Community College on the 10-week BASE business development training for Groveport Program launch is September 7.
- **Visits with Main Street Businesses**—I have been calling on businesses in the downtown, dropping off information I recently included in an e-mail to Council. These visits have really illustrated the need for more diversity and variety in the downtown, as we currently have an abundance of hair salons, real estate offices and now restaurants. One of my goals is to focus on attracting more retail businesses to Main Street.

- **Rarey's Port Lease Negotiations**—Finalized and executed leases for Choptank Agency LLC and Lissy Bee's Boutique LLC.

## **2023 PRIORITIES**

- Small business training programs (new and existing businesses)
  - Proposed curriculum included with this report.
- Development of Land property
- Area "C" Master Plan and Economic Feasibility Study.
- More vitality in downtown
  - Downtown "pocket park" at Front & Main—Mr. Lockett, BJ King, Brian Strayer and Eric Reed met to discuss ideas for the corner property. We are meeting with a landscape company on 5/19.
  - New retail businesses on Main Street
  - Downtown signage
- Business retention and expansion/in-person visits