

Memo

To: Economic Development Authority
From: Brad Meier, President/CEO
Date: 3/17/2021
Re: OACCT Economic Development Update

Economic Development

- **See report for leads and 'in progress' reports.**

Workforce (From Anisha Zak, Workforce Coordinator)

- 18 businesses are utilizing the on line opportunity listing to connect students with job shadow, tours, internships.
- 37 students directly working with Workforce Coordinator.

Covid 19/Coronavirus

- Losses for local businesses during the last shut down total well into the 10's of Millions based on the requests in to the county grant program.
- Kristi's closing because of the impact of covid.
- Still MN hasn't conformed on PPP – Key Chamber initiative to get this done.
- Chamber pushing for an actual plan that would get businesses to full reopening.
- Working with small group of service businesses on ideas for getting business back.

Other:

- Andy Michaletz new electronic billboard on I35 is up and live. He has offered to OPED space to put up some development messages. OPED had 2 designs created-the OPEN for Business is live.
- OPED Annual Reports are complete for 2020. It was a record breaking year for development \$100M+!
- Coordinating presentations to council's and board on OPED's work and strategic planning. Will be presenting to council in the next month.

<u>Company</u>	<u>Date of Inquiry</u>	<u>Service Provided</u>	<u>Follow ups</u>	<u>Conclusion</u>	<u>Project Outcome: Green (progressing), yellow (probable); red (not moving)</u>
Retailer-Albert lea	6/29/2020	Interested in additional location for her business and Owatonna is on her radar. Currently has locations in Austin and Albert Lea.	Talked about the PartyPlus space and will consider others. Only needs 800-1000 sq ft unless she has additional treatment rooms. Wants to be in a downtown location.		
Daycare Center	9/30/2020	Interested in developing a daycare center for the community.	Looking at land options and wanted to know what locations would work best. Discussed some ideas and shared a map created by the city with open land options.	Met with Greg Krushcke about various location options. Idea about the former montessori school building on the south end of town. Called owner and made the connection. 11/30/20 They are working on buying that building.	
Downtown development	2/8/2021	Discussion about a new building project.	Looking at options that could possibly face the straight river.	Started exploring options	
Industrial business location r	2/4/2021	Local start up industry looking at moving locations. Discussed his options.	Leaning towards some space that will be opening in the spring.		
Business looking to open sales office in owatonna	2/4/2021	Looking for 500 sq ft with potential for growth.	Provided 3 or 4 locations with this sq ft	Follow up has gone unanswered.	

Rental Business Looking to expand to Owatonna	2/19/2021	Looking for 8-10,000 sq ft possibly along old 14 for a rental business	Provided several space options and contacts near that area to explore. There are 2 or 3 options that could fit his space requirements, probably 1 that would be in the location he wants.	He's made contact on the locations, hasn't decided yet.	
Local business looking to spread into a new market of food. Looking for locations.	2/19/2021	Looking for existing restaurant space locations. Has walked thru former little cesears pizza site.	Discussed the former Black Sheep site above the Blast, former torey's site, former godfathers site.	No decisions-haven't found right spot.	