



# Economic Development Department

## Monthly Update Report – February 2021

---

### **ACTIVITY**

- **Attending Bi-Weekly Regional Economic Developers Meeting for COVID-19 Response**  
I have been attending weekly meetings with Economic Development staff throughout the region including Chatham County, Orange County, Chapel Hill, UNC, Downtown Chapel Hill, Hillsborough, and Chamber staff. Our discussions have been revolving around post-COVID economic development and what that looks like.
- **Attending CBA Marketing, Policy, and Leadership meetings**  
I am currently attending CBA Marketing Committee, Policy Committee, and Leadership Council meetings to both understand the role of the CBA and to network with these business owners and find ways the Department can get plugged in. The focus of February has been on “For the Love of Carrboro.”
- **Working with Two New Businesses**  
I have been working with two potential new businesses on getting started. I am currently working through some business viability work with one and working through the revolving loan process with the other. Both present great opportunities and will meet some of the categorical restaurant demand we have here.
- **Acquiring new Parking Leases begun; Anticipated Completion by end of Q1**  
I am in the process of acquiring new parking leases in downtown Carrboro. Primarily I am working with Fitch Lumber and the Dispute Settlement Center, but there is one other areas where Town Staff are working to acquire additional spaces.
- **Assisted Two Local Businesses with Development Regulations**  
I worked with Back Alley Bikes to help guide them through and find a solution to adding-on their business within the Fire District. I am also working with another local businesses on potentially moving their business so that they can expand and trying to keep them here in Carrboro.
- **BIPOC Business Update**  
Another BIPOC Business Roundtable Discussion occurred on February 25<sup>th</sup>. Staff are also working with El Centro to conduct a Spanish-speaking Roundtable as well. This will help us ensure that we are fully engaged in the needs of the entire BIPOC Community.

### **PROJECTS**

- **Minority Business Roundtable – Implementation**  
Current Status: Online portion of the Resource Center is under development. Initial meetings with community leaders have been occurring. I am working with El Centro to schedule a Spanish only roundtable so that we can better understand the needs of our

Spanish-speaking businesses.

Next Steps: Development of a resource center (both online and physical locations).

Projected Completion: On-going. We anticipate these activities to continue and become a part of the economic development workflow process. The resource center projected completion is early March.

- **Project Arrange**

We have received feedback that Project Arrange was very appreciate of the Town Manager's offer. The company has paused this project until they can reassess their needs post-COVID-19.

- **Economic Development Strategic Plan – Identifying Strategic Issues and Strategy**

Current Status: Currently working with the ESC to solidify strategic issues and identify strategies for each issue.

Next Steps: Continue to work with the ESC to identify strategies for each strategic issue at their March meeting.

Projected Completion: Mid April