



## Economic Development Department

### Monthly Update Report – August 2021

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#### **ACTIVITY**

- **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 203 Project and Downtown Parking have been the center of on-going concerns and discussions with the CBA and their respective committees.

- **Working with Two New Businesses**

I have been working with two potential new businesses – a truck and food cart. One will be a retail truck selling products out of a small mobile unit. The second is a food cart concept that would sell limited food selection out of a mobile cart. Working with Planning Staff, we have determined that both of these establishments would be required to locate on private property, but could operate under existing regulations within the Town limits.

- **Business Alliance and ESC Mentor Program Under Development**

We are working to develop a new program for new businesses in Carrboro to be matched with a local business mentor. While this will be similar to SCORE's services, it will be less structured than SCORE's program and will primarily function as a networking opportunity for new start-ups. Both the CBA and the ESC are encouraged by this program and members are willing to participate.

- **BIPOC Business Update**

Another BIPOC Business Roundtable is being scheduled for September 30<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, we will be starting a Buy BIPOC campaign to kick-off on September 20<sup>th</sup> to celebrate Minority Enterprise Development Week. The campaign will include social media outreach and the publishing of a list of BIPOC businesses in Carrboro.

#### **PROJECTS**

- **Minority Business Roundtable – Implementation**

Current Status: The Resource Center is completed, and additional resources are continuing to be added. Meetings with community leaders have been ongoing.

Next Steps: Continue to hold BIPOC Business Roundtable Meetings.

Projected Completion: On-going. We anticipate these activities to continue and become a part of the economic development workflow process.

- **Project Arrange**

We have received feedback that Project Arrange was very appreciated by the Town Manager's offer to expedite the development review process when they are ready to

expand their physical space. The company has paused this project until they can reassess their needs post-COVID-19.

- **Economic Development Strategic Plan – Developing an Action Plan**

Current Status: The ESC has reviewed and accepted the draft goals and strategies that the Comprehensive Plan Taskforce and Teska have created. Over the summer break staff have begun reviewing and developing action plans for each strategy in preparation for approval by the ESC.

Next Steps: Developing an action plan for ESC goals and strategies.

Projected Completion: October 2021

- **Downtown Parking Study – Visitation and Parking Counts**

Current Status: Walker Consulting staff will be visiting the town Sept. 15-18 to meet with various stakeholders and conduct parking counts. This should be the final portion to get the study finished up.

Next Steps: Walker will take the data and insights collected and begin finishing the Town's parking study.

Project Completion: December 2021

- **COVID-19 Mitigation Business Grants**

Current Status: A draft policy has been developed and is awaiting final Council review and approval.

Next Steps: Open the grant application period (anticipated to last for one month).

Project Completion: November 2021

- **203 Project Parking Replacement**

Area	Spaces	Availability	Status
203 S. Greensboro (203 Project)	-100	24/7	--
Dispute Settlement Center	+6	24/7	Not started
CommunityWorx	+12	24/7	Not started
309 N. Greensboro (Fitch)	+55	Evening & 24 hrs. Weekends	Staff Reviewing Plans
502B N. Greensboro (Fitch)	+19	24/7	Lease before Council
300 E. Main (behind ArtsCenter)	+62	Daytime	Completed
<b>Net Change</b>	<b>+54</b>	--	--