

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## 2014 Activities & Accomplishments

Rules Committee

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City of  
Evanston™

Economic Development

# YEAR-TO-DATE NUMBERS

- 40+ New Businesses
- 300+ Announced Jobs
- 150+ Business Visits
- \$150M+ Commercial Construction Spending
- Low office vacancy – 8.7%
- Moderate retail vacancy – 9.3%
- August 2014 Unemployment – 5.3%

# 2014 MAJOR PROJECTS

- Main/Chicago Entitlement/TIF Funding
- Evanston Plaza
- Reutilization of former Dominick's Stores
- Oakton/Asbury Redevelopment
- Autobarn Retention/Expansion
- FEW Spirits Retention

# BUSINESS DISTRICT ACTIVITY

- Merchant Grants
  - 9 Merchant Groups utilize funds
  - Projects include planters, holiday decorations, marketing, other collateral
- Main/Chicago/Dempster organizing to create Special Service Area

# ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- Next Chapter
  - Hosted 31 seminars; 230 participants
- Evanston Start-Up Showcase
  - 150+ Entrepreneurs engaged
- Now We're Cookin'
  - 30+ active incubator program/shared kitchen members