ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
Wednesday, February 28, 2018 – 7:00pm  
Lorraine Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Avenue, City Council Chambers

Staff present: P. Zalmezak, P. Effiom, C. Plante, P. Martinez

1. CALL TO ORDER / DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Ald. Rue Simmons called the meeting to order and moved approval of the minutes from January 31, 2018. 
Ald. Braithwaite seconded. 
Approved 8-0.

3. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

A. Great Merchant Grants
   Ald. Wilson moved to recommend
   Ald. Simmons second
   Approved 8-0

B. Entrepreneurship Grants
   Ms. Cindy Plante introduced the three applicants. All have completed Community Business Academy and are seeking funding for equipment.

   Renetrice Pierre operates a graphic design business, Pop, Pour, Sip. She is a Marine Veteran and combat photographer. The request is for funding for a new PC and software, but applicant is buying her own monitor and other equipment. She provides low-prices for community members.

   Seth Simmons, requests funding for vinyl cutting equipment to expand his custom apparel business, Fresh Prints. He hopes to eventually open a brick and mortar shop.

   Ava Gordon of Argortles Made It, manufactures baked goods for sale at other businesses including Hecksy’s, YoFresh, and Jennifer’s Edibles. She is requesting funding for a commercial mixer and rental of shared kitchen space and is hoping to be a vendor at farmers markets this year.

   Ald. Wynne moved to recommend
   Ald. Simmons second
   Approved 8-0
C. Storefront Modernization Grant - 1101 Howard
Ms. Plante introduced the scope of work, which includes windows, entrance door, and glass. Recommendation for $14,000.

Ald. Wynne moved to recommend
Ald. Braithwaite second
Approved 8-0

D. Arts Hiring Program Funding Request - Mudlark Theater
Mr. Zalmezak provided the purpose of the program, which was to aid arts organizations to diversify their workforce, and introduced the applicant.

Applicant introduced the scope of project.

Ald. Rainey asked if other theaters/arts programs had a chance to apply for this program. Dr. Pat Effiom advised that all organizations were given a chance to apply, but recognized that we could do a better job spreading the word. She also addressed some of the challenges organizations are facing in their recruitment of people of color, but she will work with them.

Ald. Rainey inquired how exactly Mudlark was chosen. Mr. Zalmezak advised that J. Lasik has the answers and will ask for a thorough report before CC.

Ald. Wilson moved to recommend
Ald. Simmons second
Approved 8-0

4. COMMUNICATIONS
   A. Monthly Economic Development Communication
   B. RETT Report
   C. Announcements/Updates from EDC Members

5. ADJOURNMENT
   Ald. Wynne moved to adjourn.
   Ald. Simmons second
   Meeting adjourned 7:52 pm.