



## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, February 28, 2018 – 7:00pm

Lorraine Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Avenue, City Council Chambers

**Members present:** Ald. Braithwaite, Ald. Wynne, Ald. Wilson, H. Powell, Ald. Simmons,  
Ald. Rainey, M. Berns, J. Sierant, A Pigozzi

**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 Hecky'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.