



OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

DAWN M. JONES, CITY CLERK

JOINT INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNITY INVESTMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

October 3rd, 2023 3:30 P.M.

Committee Members Present: Rachel Tomas Morgan, Vice-Chair Lori Hamann*, Canneth Lee*, Henry Davis, Jr*, Eli Wax*, Troy Warner *

Citizen Member: Maria Gibbs*, Tom Kurzhal*

Citizen Member Absent: Kaine Kanczuzewski

Others Present: Dawn Jones, Bob Palmer, Shayla Kimbrough, Victoria Trujillo*, Lisa Slomka*, Kelsey Lange, Denise Reidl, Caleb Bauer*, Adjia Sambe*, Ophelia Rodgers, Members of IT

Presenters: Denise Riedl, Eric Glavich, Amy Paul, Patrick McGuire

Agenda: Updates on Business Assistance Support, Grants, and Programs

Members marked with an asterik (*) are present digitally

Full audio dialogue of the meeting is available using the link below:

<https://docs.southbendin.gov/WebLink/0/foi/371002/Row1.aspx>

Committee Chair Rachel Tomas Morgan formally opened the meeting. At the meeting, there was discussion about how Department of Community Investment (DCI) and the South Bend Police Department (SBPD) will collaborate to launch programs towards aiding small businesses. Additionally, the Vibrant Places Grant program and two additional DCI-affiliated programs were discussed. The presenters were Denise Reidl, Chief Innovation Officer of the City of South Bend with offices on the 12th floor of the County-City Building, and Eric Glavich, Director of Growth and Opportunity, Department of Community Investments, with offices on the 14th floor of the building. Some topics of discussion during the presentation included Digital Equity Support, Business Security Grants, and more. The presentation was introduced by Reidl, then passed to Glavich to continue.

Councilmember Henry Davis sought clarification on the allocation of American Recovery Act dollars during a committee presentation. He expressed concern about the balance between private and public interests, suggesting a lack of regulations for diverse distribution of funds. In



response, Glavich clarified that demographic questions aren't considered in the decision-making process. Amy Paul from DCI, with offices located on the 14th floor of the County-City Building, provided additional details, mentioning the establishment of two lending funds for distributing payments to individuals on behalf of government assistance programs.

Paul gave details on the City's efforts to offer small company developers coaching in order to help them improve their local communities. These efforts include the creation of the company security program, Neighborhood Evolution, which was established to provide grant money to small company applicants in need of assistance. This program will work in partnership with the Build South Bend program.

Patrick McGuire, Technology Equity Manager at the Technology Resource Center (1165 Franklin St. #100), presented information on the Digital Equity Support program. The program aims to help small businesses access digital pathways for sustainability. The government has allocated \$15,000 for the program, with expectations of future expansion.

The programs aim to help entrepreneurs expand their digital knowledge and skills, with a focus on reaching minorities and small business owners. Patrick McGuire presented these goals, concluding his portion and inviting questions. Reidl provided closing comments as a follow-up to the committee.

After further discussion and questions, Ms. Reidl addressed the Council's concerns and provided clarification on presentation topics. No members of the public spoke during the meeting, prompting Chairperson Tomas Morgan to close the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Tomas Morgan, Committee Chair