

Memo

To: Economic Development Authority
From: Brad Meier, President/CEO
Date: 06/17/2020
Re: OACCT Economic Development Update

Economic Development

- **See attached report for leads and 'in progress' reports.**

Workforce

- Hosted a revised 'signing day' broadcast via Zoom and on Facebook Live.
- Anisha is working with 65 students currently.
- An email to Anisha from one of the students she worked with this year: "I hope this email finds you well! I finally graduated! Can you believe it? As excited as I am, I don't want to forget those who had helped me reach such an achievement. So thank you Ms Zak. Thank you for being an amazing mentor! You have helped me turn into the person I am today, even in a short amount of time. Thank you for everything, your constant support and friendship and I hope we can keep in touch in the future."

OPED

- Continue meeting weekly. Working through both development items, covid items and community issues. It's a melting pot!
- Outreach to some Mpls businesses displaced by riots.

Retention/Expansion

- Hosted industry sector zoom calls with mid size industries, large employers, salons/hair/cosmotology/health and wellness, small retail, and restaurants.

Covid 19/Coronavirus

- Safe Shop Zone Initiative
- Written plan template for business
- JumpStart Owatonna
- MainStreet Grants for downtown businesses (6)
- Resource page at www.owatonna.org/covid-19-resources
- StrongerTogether FB Page

Contact	Company	Date of Inquiry	Service Provided	Follow ups	Conclusion	Project Outcome: Green (progressing), yellow (probable); red (not moving)
Peter Biel	Daycare Center	1/2/2020	Looking for a location to start a daycare center in Owatonna.	Provided several options in the 1,000 sq ft size.		Yellow
	Women's Boutique	12/9/2019	Individual moving to town with her spouse who is working at Rise Modular and wants to move Boutique to Owatonna downtown.	Provided some contacts for possible 1,500 sq ft of space for her business and answered some permitting questions. 01/02/2020 talked about location options-she is going into the army/navy location on Oak.		Green
	Downtown Hotel		Continued conversations around a project on the 200 block of N Cedar			Yellow
	Axe Throwing Business	2/5/2020	Met with new owner about his desire to open a business next to MSB along the river.	Connecting him with MSB owners and checking with city on the carry in liquor law.		Green
	Therapist Group	2/14/2020	connection that a group was looking at the former Caterpillar building.	outreach to building owner. Building sold.		Yellow
	Pop Up Men's Clothing	4/10/2020	Want to open a pop up business in downtown Sept-Dec to test the market	Provided property options and contacts.		Green
	Asphalt Plan	3/30/2020	Working with local business to help in conversations with city team to identify a proper location at the appropriate price.	Troy/Greg have tentative agreement.		Green
	Concrete Plant	4/2/2020	Took a call from a business that is interested in providing concrete competition in Owatonna and looking for land in the industrial park.	Directed him to Greg/Troy at city for appropriate location.		Yellow
	Local Existing Hotel	Continuous	On going conversations with the owner of the hotel and a local businessman who might have interest in purchasing.	Providing on-going updates around hotel situation in the community and possible next steps.		Yellow
Morton Bu	Locate a construction/sales office					Green
Freedom H	Home health business looking to expand from Mankato into Owatonna area		Looking for 600 sq ft office plus shared services of reception and board room.	Discussed Development Center and also shared few other spots that have this as an option.	She is coming to Owatonna next week to look at space	Green
	Plastics company in Minneapolis		Featured in Star Tribune about not reopening in Mpls	Outreach on email (phone doesn't connect) Kruschke reaching out to Michaletz to see if we can get cell.		Yellow