

Public Hearing: 11-3-2014

## FACT SHEET

**TITLE:** Lincoln Chamber Economic Development Corporation Agreement

**SPONSOR:** Mayor's Office

**OTHER DEPARTMENTS AFFECTED:**  
Finance

**OPPONENTS:**

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**  
Approve

**APPLICANT:**  
Mike Lang, Mayor's Office

**REASON FOR LEGISLATION:** Approving an agreement between City and Lincoln Chamber Economic Development Corporation for the promotion of economic development in Lincoln for a two year term commencing September 1, 2014 through August 31, 2016.

## DISCUSSION

The City of Lincoln and Lincoln Chamber Economic Development Corporation have a public-private cooperative agreement to establish and operate the Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development, also known as LPED.

LPED plays a vital role in promoting economic development in Lincoln. The primary goals of the organization include:

The mission of the Partnership will be to help nurture a positive environment for existing businesses, attract high-impact industries to our community, and develop entrepreneurial and technological capacity through public and private partnerships.

The "Goals" of the Partnership are:

- A. To act as a clearinghouse for economic development initiatives in the Lincoln area.
- B. To develop and maintain a communication network among all the Lincoln area economic development organizations.
- C. To establish annual projects for Lincoln in the following program areas:
  - (1) Business Retention and Expansion
  - (2) Targeted Business Attraction
  - (3) Technology and Entrepreneurship Development
  - (4) Community Competitiveness

The Mayor's office and several City Departments work closely with LPED to effectively carry-out economic development program activities. We feel this relationship has led to a more streamlined approach to how we respond to the needs of the business community.

Changes made to agreement in 2011 - In the past, we have made subtle but yet substantive changes that strengthened this working relationship, including:

A strategic planning workshop for LPED steering committee members to review the economic development needs of the City prior to ratification of the annual program of projects.

Increasing the frequency of Activity Reports and evaluations to be better informed about economic development activities and outcomes, progress made on our annual program of projects, and issues that relate to Lincoln's business climate.

A more integrated approach to reporting activities among Lincoln's ED stakeholders.

#### New Changes

Reducing the term of the agreement from three to two years to correlate with the City's biennial budget.

Enabling a one-time expense of \$150k from the LCEDC's "Opportunity Fund" (business incentive fund) to support a Lincoln Economic Development Vision Plan. It has been over 10 years since the Angelou Economic study was completed and the landscape in Lincoln and the regional/global economy have dramatically changed. In general, the scope of work includes:

- Key opportunities for Lincoln's future growth and development
- Identify Lincoln's economic development assets and weaknesses
- Regional and global competitive strengths and weaknesses
- Develop a strategy to implement projects and achieve identified goals

We anticipate the study will be launched and completed in 2015.

#### Agreement is based on a Funding Match

Under this agreement, the City shall fund 50% of the annual LPED budget for each program year up to a maximum amount of \$500k (City contribution).

The LCEDC shall also fund 50% of the annual LPED budget in the same amount. Payment of City funds will not be made until there is sufficient evidence of the LCEDC contribution.

**POLICY OR PROGRAM CHANGE:** N/a

**COST OF TOTAL PROJECT:** Up to \$1 Million maximum

**SOURCE OF FUNDS:** Previously approved in City's general fund/general expense budget

**CITY:** Up to \$500k per year for a two year term

**NON CITY:**

**BENEFIT COST:**

**FACT SHEET PREPARED BY:** Mike Lang, Mayor's Office

**REVIEWED BY:**