



## CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS

### City Council Agenda Communication

**Meeting Date:** June 5, 2022

**Prepared By:** Jim Snider, City Administrator  
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**Agenda Item:** GPEDC Presentation/Funding

**Explanation:** Chris Setti from the Greater Peoria Economic Development Council will be at Monday's City Council meeting to provide updates on initiatives being undertaken by the GPEDC and the regional economy. The GPEDC played a vital role in the response to COVID-19 and has been an important and necessary ally for the businesses in Washington and in the five-county region that it serves.

Last year, it completed another successful in-person Career Spark event with more than 9,000 student participants; the awarding of more than \$5 million in Back To Business grants to 136 businesses in the region; submitted 32 Requests for Information responses for business attraction opportunities; supported more than 250 businesses to access grants through the Community Navigator program; launched a regional job board that publicizes nearly 2,000 job openings at 100 local companies; oversaw progress towards the construction of Distillery Labs, which will serve as the region's innovation and entrepreneurial hub; and was awarded a grant from the State of Illinois to conduct a labor shed analysis in 2023. GPEDC staff provide valuable updates on a variety of federal and state legislative programs.

The GPEDC is the first line of communication on non-retail site selector projects and provides assistance on grant applications that can help fund infrastructure or workforce enhancements. It is also a strong advocate for legislative initiatives that can positively impact economic growth in the region.

**Fiscal Impact:** The FY 23-24 budget has \$10,000 included for the City's annual financial contribution to the GPEDC. This will be scheduled for approval on the June 19 City Council agenda.

**Action Requested:** None