



CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS

City Council Agenda Communication

Meeting Date: June 19, 2023

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Agenda Item: Consent Agenda – GPEDC Funding

Explanation: Chris Setti from the Greater Peoria Economic Development Council presented a summary at the June 5 City Council meeting to provide updates on initiatives being undertaken by the GPEDC and the regional economy. The GPEDC has played a vital role in the current response to COVID-19 and has been an important 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.

Recommendation/

Committee Discussion Summary: Staff recommends approval of the funding request.

Action Requested: Authorization to make the annual \$10,000 contribution to the GPEDC as a consent agenda item.