



CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS

Committee of the Whole Agenda Communication

Meeting Date: June 9, 2025

Prepared By: Jon Oliphant, AICP, Planning & Development Director

Agenda Item: GPEDC Presentation/Funding

Explanation: Chris Setti from the Greater Peoria Economic Development Council will be at Monday's Committee of the Whole 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 continues to be an important and necessary ally for the businesses in Washington and in the five-county region that it serves.

A link to the GPEDC's 2024 annual report can be found at: greaterpeoriaedc.org/wp-content/uploads/gpedc-2024-annual-report-web.pdf.

Last year, it completed another successful Career Spark event with more than 11,000 eighth grade student participants representing more than 75 schools; construction was completed for Distillery Labs, which serves as the region's vibrant startup ecosystem; visited numerous businesses throughout the region and provided assistance with everything from workforce issues to connecting with state and federal resources; helped businesses receive \$660,000 in B2B NewBiz grants; and hosted 20 visits from foreign companies that were looking to learn more about the Peoria region. 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 25-26 budget has \$10,000 included for the City's annual financial contribution to the GPEDC. This will be scheduled for approval on the June 16 City Council agenda.

Action Requested: None