



CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS

City Council Agenda Communication

Meeting Date: June 16, 2025

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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 9 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 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.

Action Requested: Staff recommends the authorization to make the annual \$10,000 contribution to the GPEDC as a consent agenda item at the June 16 Council meeting.