



REQUEST FOR ACTION

Supporting Economic Growth and Vitality - Update on the Economic Development Ecosystem

MEETING DATE:

July 20, 2026

ORIGINATING DEPT:

Community Development

AGENDA SECTION:

Reports and Recommendations

PRESENTER:

Irene Woodward

Action Requested:

For Council information only - no formal action requested.

Report Narrative:

City teammates will provide an update on the City's ongoing efforts to strengthen Rochester's economic development ecosystem and will seek feedback on the development of an Economic Development Strategy.

Over the last year, City teammates have engaged economic development organizations and local businesses to better understand the current economic development landscape. This work has included partner self-assessments, a business survey, and ecosystem mapping to identify existing resources, service gaps, and opportunities for collaboration, as well as to clarify the City's role in supporting business retention, expansion, entrepreneurship, workforce development, and long-term vitality.

The presentation will also highlight related initiatives that complement this effort, including the Regulatory Justice Initiative and the Economic Mobility grant. Both focus on reducing barriers to economic opportunity and improving coordination among public, private, and nonprofit partners.

Information gathered through these efforts will inform the development of a citywide Economic Development Strategy that establishes a clear vision, defines the City's role in economic development, aligns existing programs and investments, and identifies measurable goals.

Priorities & Foundational Principles:

Economic Resilience

Policy Considerations & DEI Impact:

This recommendation supports the Strategic Priority of Economic Resilience and the corresponding vision statement that includes Rochester will foster a dynamic, inclusive, and resilient economy by supporting local businesses, attracting new investments, and preserving the City's core economic base.

Prior Legislative Actions & Community Engagement:

June 10, 2024: Study Session - Economic Vitality Update

September 8, 2025: Adoption of City Action Plan

September 29, 2025: Sales Tax Update

Fiscal & Resource Impact:

Funding to support the development of an Economic Development Strategy could be provided through Economic Vitality funding.

Alternative Action(s):

No alternative actions are recommended at this time.

Prepared By:

Irene Woodward

Attachments:

[Presentation - Supporting Economic Growth and Vitality](#)