

**Phoenix City Council
Economic Development and Housing (EDH) Subcommittee
Summary Minutes
Thursday, June 12, 2025**

City Council Chambers
200 W. Jefferson Street
Phoenix, AZ

Subcommittee Members Present

Vice Mayor Ann O'Brien, Chair
Councilwoman Debra Stark
Councilwoman Kesha Hodge Washington

Subcommittee Members Absent

Councilman Kevin Robinson

CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman O'Brien called the Economic Development and Housing Subcommittee to order at 1:04 p.m. with Councilwoman Stark and Councilwoman Hodge Washington present.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

None.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS

1. Minutes of the Economic Development and Housing Subcommittee Meeting

Councilwoman Hodge Washington made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 28, 2025, Economic Development and Housing Subcommittee meeting. Councilwoman Stark seconded the motion, which passed unanimously, 3-0.

CONSENT ACTION (ITEM 2)

Item 2 was for consent action. No presentations were planned, but staff was available to answer questions.

2. Annual Review and Updates to the Neighborhood Services Department's Code Enforcement Policy

Consent only. No councilmember requested additional information.

Councilwoman Stark made a motion to approve Item 2. Councilwoman Hodge Washington seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 3-0.

INFORMATION ONLY (ITEMS 3-4)

3. Head Start Birth to Five Monthly Report – April

Information only. No councilmember requested additional information.

4. City of Phoenix Naloxone Program Update: March 2025 to May 2025

Information only. No councilmember requested additional information.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION (ITEM 5)

5. Phoenix Office of Innovation Update

Office of Innovation Director Michael Hammett presented the item.

Councilwoman Stark expressed that she would like to attend the next Hackathon, and the presentation shows how innovative the City of Phoenix is.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington asked how future locations are being selected for the Chilled Drinking Water Initiative, and if there was any opportunity for Council input or more community input in the selection process.

Mr. Hammett answered that the selection process was data-driven, and includes the results of surveys and community input, he also noted more input is always welcome.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington stated that the two Hive locations provide one-on-one guidance for various technologies and act as access points for technology to the communities. She asked how the City gathers input from the community on what they want to see on the City Manager's Performance Dashboard.

Mr. Hammett explained that staff had sent out surveys to communities, which resulted in a great response and good ideas.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington asked if there is a way to make the data presented on the City Manager's Performance Dashboard more cohesive and comparable.

Mr. Hammett answered that the staff is moving towards achieving consistency in data reporting.

6. Economic Development Review of Fiscal Year 2024-25 and Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2025-26

Community and Economic Development Director Christine Mackay, Deputy Community and Economic Development Director Xandon Keating, Deputy Community and Economic Development Director Nathan Wright, Deputy Community and Economic Development Director LaSetta Hogans, and Special Projects Administrator Gretchen Wolfe presented the item.

Chairwoman O'Brien stated the City has not only been able to attract many businesses and jobs to the City but also attracted high-value industries and high-wage jobs, which have expanded and diversified the make-up of the City's economy. She asked what the staff was doing to retain the small local businesses in the City.

Ms. Mackay answered that the staff meet with small businesses through Small Business Programs to assist them.

Chairwoman O'Brien asked what Dress for Success is.

Mr. Keating answered that their mission is to provide high-quality clothing for job interviews for people who do not have the resources as they enter the workforce.

Chairwoman O'Brien stated the growth in the urban core and investment in Transit Oriented Communities was ongoing and the results of the investment are yet to come. She asked what the economic impact of the investments was on these areas.

Mr. Keating explained the difficulty of estimating the impact but anticipated a significant amount of development coming to the communities, especially along the recently opened South Central Extension of Light Rail.

Chairwoman O'Brien stated there was a need to further develop relationships with school districts to educate students on existing opportunities.

Councilwoman Stark remarked that tourism was important to the City's economy and asked why tourism wasn't included as one of the City's economic development goals.

Ms. Mackay answered the department partners with the Phoenix Convention Center and Visit Phoenix on various conventions, and the Strategic roadmap for tourism is to plan and execute according to the plans of the Phoenix Convention Center.

Councilwoman Stark asked if there was a museum showcasing the culture of Phoenix is something that is being considered for development in the future.

Ms. Mackay explained the Arts and Culture Director, Mr. Menchaca was working with the City Manager's Office to propose potential sites for a museum.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington asked what the City's plan was to attract a medical facility in South Mountain Village, which is a demand expressed by residents as well as the Fire Department.

Ms. Mackay answered that staff conducted a demographic study on the area and talked to Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of hospitals in the area and hospital planning organizations and catalogued existing vacant buildings that could be potential sites for a hospital.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington stressed the need to promote Laveen and South Mountain tech corridors to be offered as potential sites for new companies.

Ms. Mackay answered staff were prioritizing the areas for tech companies that are exploring the City of Phoenix for a new site due to their geographic advantage that comes from being located in the central area of the valley.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington asked for progress on bringing a new resort to the Gila Foothills.

Ms. Mackay shared the staff created a marketing strategy and brought a delegation for a tour and a planning meeting.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington asked how many of jobs added last year are accessible in terms of transportation, wages, and skill sets to our existing residents.

Ms. Mackay answered there was prioritization in the jobs attracted to the City because they are multipliers that result in attraction of other jobs that are formed around the jobs, which are accessible to all citizens through various internships and training programs.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Pete Colarelli expressed his appreciation for the Bioscience Core and the medical community in Phoenix, which provides a variety of opportunities for current and future residents of the City.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Councilwoman Stark requested an update on Sister Cities to be added to the agenda for next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairwoman O'Brien adjourned the meeting at 2:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Seo
Management Fellow