

MINUTES

Of the Board of Directors Of the City of Baltimore Development Corporation

A virtual meeting of the Board of Directors (Board) of the City of Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) was held on Thursday, June 18, 2020 beginning at 7:40 a.m. **Board Members on the call were: Chair, Augie Chiasera; Chair Emeritus, Arnold Williams; Vice Chair, Jeffrey Hargrave; President, Colin Tarbert; Greg Cangialosi; Elda Devarie; Jeff Fraley; Miriam Fuchs; Charisse Hughes; Carolyn Mozell; Henry Raymond; Paul Taylor; Michael Walton; Angela Wells-Sims; and Christy Wyskiel.**

Staff on the call were: Kimberly Clark, Nancy Jordan-Howard, Will Beckford, Jeff Pillas, Larysa Salamacha, Deb Tillett, Dan Taylor, Susan Yum; Kristin Dawson, Ira Kowler, Andy Cook, and Beverly Lanier (as Recording Secretary).

Also in attendance: Due to COVID-19, all attendees are not noted as it was virtual and open to the public.

The meeting was called to order by the chair, A. Chiasera at 7:40 a.m.

- I. Minutes of the BDC Board Meeting of April 16, 2020 were approved as written.
- II. Chairman's comments
 - i. Chiasera mentioned the following:
 - As the economic agency of the city, BDC must be a leader when it comes to economic opportunity, reaffirming its commitment to racial equality and diversity, underscoring the important role that it plays as the City's economic development agency;
 - Racism and inequality continue to grow causing detrimental impact to communities of color. Tarbert will provide a series of steps to move BDC in the right direction of long-term efforts, which should be a standing agenda item at each meeting going forward;
 - Tarbert shared initiatives already in place and to be undertaken over the next year such as partnering with Black-led organizations that support and foster entrepreneurship in the City; increased lending to Black-owned businesses; intentional data collection; and mapping and promoting black-owned businesses through a concise and centralized list – a few initiatives incorporated into Baltimore Together, BDC's comprehensive economic development strategy. A Baltimore Together equity and inclusion committee will be formed to ensure that strategies and investments made in the next five years have equitable outcomes for all City residents.
 - After comments from members, a motion was made by Williams to create a standing agenda item for the BDC Board meeting going forward, to address issues of equity, race, inclusion and diversity; to address progress of those efforts; and to keep it part of the discussion. The second motion on the table is to provide a public statement from the BDC organization and the board's support of these efforts. The motion was second by Hargrave and unanimously approved.
- III. President's Report
 - i. Tarbert reported on the following:
 - Progress in spite of COVID including the expansion or relocation of small businesses like The Charmery; minority businesses such as Benedetto's and Milk and Honey Market; and manufacturing businesses such as Pixelligent; or Emergent BioSolutions tapped by Astra Zeneca to produce the COVID-19 vaccine;
 - The success and continuation of the Food Access program with LYFT;
 - Four grocery stores will come online by the end of summer, Compare Foods in two locations, Streets Market, and Sprouts Grocery Store.

- Specialty projects such as the USS Constellation Museum and the new animal care facilities took perseverance and dedicated staff to get across the finish line. Clark presented on the successful opening of Baltimore City Animal Services.

IV. BDC – COVID-19 Response & Initiatives

- i. Tarbert reported that BDC had not been awarded funds for recovery at the last board meeting, but has since received \$5.5M used in the following three projects.

MADE IN BALTIMORE PROGRAM: Cook reported on the Locally-Made Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Initiative and how through two programs, BDC has deployed nearly \$550,000 in grants and procurement contracts. \$150,000 (Local PPE Grant Fund) was designated to offset the cost of converting operations to PPE production. \$400,000 (Local PPE Procurement Fund) was designated to purchase locally-made PPE for city agency frontline workers. Several businesses expanded to fulfill their contracts and are interested in continuing the production of PPE – beyond the crisis. Procurement with anchor institutions will be explored.

BALTIMORE SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE FUND: Taylor reported on the \$3.5M grant program announced April 23, 2020 to fill the gap of small businesses which did not qualify for state and federal assistance dollars. Criteria was intentional - set to capture those small businesses with limited infrastructure and access, while ensuring that all priority areas and minority-owned businesses were well represented in the recovery effort. Since it was not first-come-first-served, with all applications being reviewed (over 600), distribution of aid was more equitable. All applications have been reviewed and funds are being disbursed.

SMALL BUSINESS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NETWORK: Seigel reported on the coordination of a public-private partnership led by BDC and the Baltimore Small Business Support Fund comprised of 8 technical assistance providers and 11 community referral partners. Seigel explained how the network helps small businesses lacking infrastructure and resources access capital by navigating available programs.

DESIGN FOR DISTANCING: Terranova reported that the BDC administered/City funded program is a collaboration with the Neighborhood Design Center who has assisted with project management, stakeholder outreach, and putting together design guidelines. The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health also ensures that guidelines are being followed. 10 Designs were chosen and are being incorporated into a design guidebook. Those designs along with more details can be found on the website, www.designfordistancing.org

BALTIMORE TOGETHER (CEDS): Tarbert reported that all 150+ stakeholders were invited to recap meetings to review findings which are being compiled in an interim report. Tarbert acknowledged Bloomberg Philanthropy who has included BDC in their COVID-19 Recovery, which is being worked into the Baltimore Together Strategic Plan. Connections are being made, giving access to best practices and strategies. Once the interim report is complete, the board will be briefed before presenting to elected officials and stakeholders. The final step includes public engagement. Methods of disseminating this information is still being explored and is still on track to be released this fall.

- ii. Meeting was adjourned at 9:17 a.m.