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Industry and Economic Development Committee Meeting

Date: Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Time: 11:30 a.m. MST

Location: Workforce Solutions Borderplex, Inc.
304 Texas Avenue, 1st Floor Conference Room
El Paso, Texas 79901

Committee Members Present:

Ruben Torres
Joseph Biernacki
Christina Gonzalez
Art Garza

Committee Members Absent:

Ralph Adame
Leonard Goodman
Dr. William Serrata

Staff Members Present:

Leila Melendez
Abigail Ruiz
Alma Aranda
Bianca Cervantes

Denisse Wiley
Eduardo Anaya
Karina Castillo
Marisela Correa

Myriam Guerrero
Niquisha Washington
Zonia Sigala

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER AND NOTE OF ATTENDANCE

Ruben Torres, Industry and Economic Development Committee Chair

Mr. Ruben Torres, Industry and Economic Development Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:36 am. MST. Quorum was cited.

2. ACTIVITY REPORTS

A: Discussion and update on the Business Collaboration Contracts
(*Bianca Cervantes, Communications Director*)

- Overview of completed contracts
- El Paso Hispanic Chamber and El Paso Chamber Presentations – Immigration Forum (*Terri Reed EPHC -Business Center, El Paso Project Director and Mia - Romero Director of Advocacy*)

Ms. Bianca Cervantes, Communications Director, discussed the Business Partnership agreements WSB has with El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, El Paso Chamber, Borderplex Alliance, Paso Del Norte Community Foundation and Technology Hub. Ms. Desirae Manzanarez EPHC -Business Center, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy and

Ms. Mia - Romero Director of Advocacy discussed the advocacy for immigration reform and addressing labor shortages and a broken immigration system.

B: Discussion and updates on Economic and Workforce Development projects
(*Leila Melendez, Chief Executive Officer, and Alma Aranda, Director of Innovation and Development*)

- EDA Distressed Area Recompete Pilot Program Grant
- NSF Regional Innovation Engines Grant: Paso del Norte Innovation for Defense and Aerospace (IDEA) Engine

Ms. Leila Melendez, Chief Executive Officer, and Ms. Alma Aranda, Director of Innovation and Development, discussed two grants that staff is currently working on; EDA Distressed Area Recompete Pilot Program Grant and NSF Regional Innovation Engines Grant: Paso del Norte Innovation for Defense and Aerospace (IDEA) Engine.

3. ADJOURN

A: Discussion on items of interest for next agenda – August 16, 2023

The meeting adjourned at 12:19 pm. MST.