




R-13

Date: February 18, 2014

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council

From: Councilmember Gerrie Schipske, 5th District 

Subject: **Request City Manager To Participate in Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation's Application for Los Angeles County to be a Federally Designated Manufacturing Community.**

Discussion: Councilwoman Gerrie Schipske is a member of the L.A. Jobs Defense Council which is a committee of the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation. The Council and LAEDC are seeking opportunities to attract jobs to Los Angeles County and are in process of submitting an application to become a federally designated manufacturing community.

This designation is funded through the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP), a new government-wide initiative that will help communities cultivate an environment for businesses to create well-paying manufacturing jobs in regions across the country and thereby accelerate the resurgence of manufacturing. The IMCP is designed to reward communities that demonstrate best practices in attracting and expanding manufacturing by bringing together key local stakeholders and using long-term planning that integrates targeted investments across a community's industrial ecosystem to create broad-based prosperity. The IMCP is a critical component of the Department of Commerce's "Open for Business Agenda," which prioritizes trade and investment.

Up to 12 communities will be designated and the designation gives them elevated consideration for \$1.3 billion in federal dollars and assistance from 10 cabinet departments/agencies. These communities would also potentially receive additional catalytic federal investments to support their economic development strategies.

Proposals for designation as a Manufacturing Community must be submitted on behalf of the region by a consortium – which in this case is the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation.

In order to earn the designation, communities must present strategies that identify technologies or industries in which they would be competitive in the future and would make investments in the following areas:

Request City Manager To Participate in Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation's Application for Los Angeles County to be a Federally Designated Manufacturing Community.

February 18, 2014

Page 2

- workforce and training;
- advanced research;
- infrastructure and site development;
- supply chain support;
- export promotion;
- and capital access

These communities will receive:

- Elevated consideration for federal dollars and assistance across 10 cabinet departments/agencies, totaling \$1.3 billion;
- A dedicated federal liaison at these agencies who can act as their concierge to the specific services they need;
- Subject to funding availability, challenge grants may become available to some awardees from the pool of designated manufacturing communities;
- Recognition on a government website, accessible to prospective private investors (foreign and domestic alike) looking for information on communities' competitive attributes

Discussion: LAEDC requests that the City of Long Beach send in our specific comments on responding to this opportunity as soon as we can as LAEDC is preparing the narrative and strategy for the application which is due March 14, 2014. The City of Long Beach, Long Beach City College, California State University Long Beach and the Port of Long Beach need to be active stakeholders in this application process.

Recommendation: Request the City Manager to work with JoAnne Golden-Stewart, Director of Public Policy for LAEDC in submitting comments necessary for the City of Long Beach to participate in seeking designation as a Manufacturing Community as part of the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) program established by President Obama.

Fiscal Impact: City Manager to determine cost of staff time.

LAEDC 2/19/14