



# **KANSAS CITY MISSOURI**

# Economic Development & Incentive Policy

February 3, 2026

Finance, Governance & Public Safety Committee



# Background

C.S. for Resolution 120836 – Expressing support for the AdvanceKC Strategic Plan and directing the City Manager to develop an ordinance to approve

Oct. 2012

Apr. 2013

C.S. for Resolution 130274 implementation phase began with a single point of entry for development project through the EDC

Ordinance No. 140031 – Enacting an economic development and incentives policy for the City and repealing Committee Substitute for Ordinance No. 070943.

Mar. 2014

# Background



- Section 807 of the **City Charter** provides that the City Council shall enact policies that reflect best practices for, among other things, the use of economic incentives.
- The **Citywide Business Plan's** goal for **Inclusive Growth and Development** aims to strategically and intentionally support development in a comprehensive manner that respects the needs of neighborhoods throughout Kansas City, to grow the economy through inclusion by developing strategies focused on areas traditionally underserved by economic development and redevelopment efforts, and to make it easier to operate businesses within the City by creating a more efficient, solutions-oriented environment.

# Where are We Now and What's Next:

Through the AE Report, we have

- Assessed the current status of economic development policies;
- Identified goals and priorities through our stakeholder meetings; and,
- Gathered best practices relating to economic development tools and policy.



This Ordinance will

- Codify our existing economic development policies.
- Direct the City Manager to undertake a series of tasks to review and update existing policies.



Timeline: 4 Phases

- Incentives: 6 – 9 months
- Efficiency and Transparency: 9 months
- Evaluation and Accountability: 9 – 12 months
- Land Use: 12 – 18 months

## Where are We Now and What's Next:

- Ordinance to be Introduced
  - Changes nothing to our current policy at this time.
  - Simply codifies our current policy.
  - Creates a roadmap for crafting and implementing the updated plan.
- Today's purpose is to present the directives to ensure that they align with Council's goals
- Next Steps: Throughout the process of policy development there will be opportunity for Council and public engagement.

## Overall Objective



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To ensure economic development projects in Kansas City promote equitable economic development.

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To align economic development policies with the City policy priorities.

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To achieve efficiency in the economic development process and effectively evaluate performance.

## Overall Objective



Engage the Economic Development Agencies and Port KC in developing recommendations.



Incorporate public feedback and engagement opportunities prior to the final policy recommendations.



Audit economic development agencies and review existing policies to ensure alignment and efficiency.

# Four Directives



**Incentives**



**Efficiency & Transparency**



**Evaluation &  
Accountability**



**Land Use**

# Incentives

The City Manager is directed to re-evaluate and recommend revisions to current incentive policies and prioritize economic equity, that include the following actions and to report back with recommendations within 6- 9 months:

- Develop a new **community benefits analysis** structured around clear public priorities, transparent scoring, and recommend how to use said scorecard;
- Develop and make recommendations for a **tiered incentive policy** that incorporates (a) **location-based metrics** (e.g., development nodes) and (b) **targeted industries**; and
- Develop and make recommendations to incorporate **community benefits requirements** into development agreements;

# Incentives (cont.)

In carrying out these actions, the City Manager shall consider, among other things:

- areas of **legacy disinvestment** to target for revitalization;
- communities in distressed or disinvested areas to determine the **types of attractions and amenities** that best meet their needs;
- communities with **critical gaps** in a city-wide plan independent of the Area Plan update process; and,
- how current city development incentives **align with the city's hazard mitigation and resiliency goals.**

# Efficiency & Transparency

The City Manager is further directed to conduct the following actions to create a development process that is transparent, efficient, and responsive and report back with recommendations within **9 months**:

- Inventory current incentive **tracking systems**;
- Design and build a **public-facing portal, information regarding economic impact of tax incentive projects**, a parcel-based map of available incentives to support efficient site selection and community-informed investment, as well as information on economic impact of tax incentives;
- Develop an **incentive toolbox** by compiling and categorizing all incentive programs, defining each tool's purpose, eligibility, benefits, performance metrics, and timelines;
- Evaluate the feasibility of creating a **self-permitting program** and make recommendations;
- Create policies that engage and support **neighborhood-based organizations** in proactive economic development; and,
- Develop and implement a plan to identify **anchor institutions** throughout the community in collaboration with community-based partners to support economic development and capital funding decisions.
- **Evaluate the current staffing, administrative support, and policies and procedures of the various Economic Development Agencies in order to evaluate opportunities for improved efficiency and consistency.**

# Evaluation & Accountability

The City Manager is further directed to conduct the following actions to ensure economic development in Kansas City produces the results that reflect the values and priorities of the City and report back with recommendations within **9 – 12 months**:

- Establish comprehensive, standardized **data collection** for current incentive-supported projects and development activities;
- Develop a policy to require ongoing **performance reporting from developers and city agencies** as part of incentive agreements;
- Create publicly accessible **dashboards for economic development data**; and,
- Develop and implement a plan to **evaluate economic development projects**, including in comparison to other municipalities by identifying a set of peer and aspirational cities with similar demographics, economic profile, and strategic goals.

# Land Use

The City Manager is further directed to conduct the following actions to generate revenue and promote city policy goals through strategic land use and report back with recommendations within **12-18 months**:

- Develop a plan for how **city-owned parcels** might be assembled and made ready for economic development and redevelopment projects;
- Develop a plan to **activate city-owned** land by promoting event programming to generate revenue and strengthen the local, creative economy;
- Incorporate **KC Spirit Playbook** recommendations into economic development policies; and,
- Develop a plan for how the City will anticipate and address **future transit needs**, including with respect to freight and last mile connectivity, so that the City is prepared to meet those needs on expedited timeframes.

# Cooperation with Economic Development Agencies

- Joint Advisory Committee comprised of
  - City Manager and Mayor, or designee
  - Board Chairs of Economic Development Corporation, PortKC, Planned Industrial Expansion Authority, and Kansas City Area Transportation Authority
  - City or economic development staff

# Public Engagement

- Public feedback and engagement opportunities will be incorporated prior to final policy recommendations.

# Audit of Agencies

- The City Auditor is directed to conduct a comprehensive review of all agencies to ensure policy alignment.

# Standardized Incentive

- That the City Manager is directed to establish standard incentive packages recommendations for prioritized development categories within 120 days.

# Questions?