



City of Seat Pleasant

Director of Economic Development

A CITY OF EXCELLENCE - SMART CITY

“Seat Pleasant offers Smart City Services that is better, faster and personalized making it a City for Me using information and communication technology, with the internet of things”

Department Name Economic Development

Date of Report January 27, 2016

Reporting Period January 2017

Summarize significant department progress for the reporting period that is indicative of providing services that are better, faster and personalized.

The Economic Development Department has met with John Maneval, the CDA Deputy Director for the State of Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development as we had a discussion on all the programs that are provided by the DHCD. A meeting has been set up with Charles Day, the supervisor over the Local Government Infrastructure Finance program within DHCD.

The Director for Economic Development also worked with the grants manager to complete the application for \$1.5 Million for the LGIF program. We will submit to Mr. Day to understand what our requests should be and how they should be structured.

Analyze department improvements that are needed and/or achieved based on the Smart City model.

The Department has secured an Intern for Economic Development who is currently completing his undergraduate degree program at the University of Wisconsin with a focus on Communications and Urban Planning. The Intern will work with the City for one month while on school break and may obtain college credit for the work completed.

The major improvement needed in the department is still personnel.

Indicate problems identified, barriers encountered and solutions reached.

Once again, the major problem and barrier is the lack of resources in the Department. We have assigned the current contractual grants manager to a thrice-weekly meeting, up from once weekly in the previous month, at City Hall to go over the status of existing grants that we have applied for, finding new grants, and managing the grants that have been awarded. This is an increase from her normal duties and the contract was signed effective January 1, 2017.

Identify goals for the next reporting period.

The Department has established a goal of achieving an 236% increase in the amount of grants awarded to the City by going after more grants through the Grants Management office. This office is now under the purview of the Economic Development Department. At this current juncture, we have only been awarded \$155,000 in the past year. We would like to raise that number to \$525,000 or 15% of the City budget. We are also seeking to go after 200% more grants than we currently do.

The Department also secured an online cloud-based software system, IMPLAN. We have already begun using this smart economic data collection and projection tool. We used it to help the City identify the economic impact of various projects that the City is proposing to both the County and the State. With this information, the City can make appropriate decisions as to what industries the City would be able to bring in as well as project the number of new jobs that can be created under the Smart City model.

Another goal is to improve the timeline for the Smart City redevelopment project for City Hall and the Public Works facility by 50%. As the Compliance Officer, we believe the current process is not moving at a speed to accomplish the Mayor’s goal of having this project complete in 2017. We have stayed in consistent communication with the staff who are administering the Loan program for the USDA. We believe that the response should come in the next month to authorize us to move forward with the project.

Supporting Documentation: Source: Office of the City Treasurer

Revenue

Line Item Unknown

FY2016 Budget (Previous Year)	FY 2017 Budget (Current Year)	FY 2017 Actual (Current Year)
\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Expenditures

Line Item 6-6017

FY2016 Budget (Previous Year)	FY 2017 Budget (Current Year)	FY 2017 Actual (Current Year)

\$35,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
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Attachments: N/A