



City of Seat Pleasant

Office of the City Administrator

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 December 2, 2016

Reporting Period November 2016

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

Economic Development Department has met with the Prince George’s County Economic Development Corporation and presented the City’s marketing package to them for review on November 9,2016. They expressed interest in assisting the City with marketing and communicating the Smart City model assist the City in bringing more retailers in to replace the Safeway that was lost in July 2016.

The Director for Economic Development also participated in the National League of Cities Annual Summit for 2016 during the week of the 13th. This conference was particularly informative as there was a lot of discussion in various workshops regarding Smart Cities and the Internet of Things, which is key to the progress of the City’s current Smart City efforts. The Director assisted the City Administrator and several Councilmembers in attendance by collecting information regarding development and growth in Seat Pleasant as well as networking with other government officials to discover best practices and models.

The Director met with the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission to learn more information about rezoning and mapping out the different incentivized zones present in the City. We learned that the City is an Enterprise Zone, HUBZone, Revitalization Tax Credit Zone as well as a Prince George’s County designated Sustainable Community. This was explained by discussing the benefits of each designation.

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

The major improvement needed in the department is still personnel. The department is seeking to add a full-time grants writer and manager who can assist in locating, writing and managing all City grants for all the major departments. The Smart City model would be reached in a shorter amount of time if we able to get more grants that support the information and communication technology that the City needs.

Furthermore, there needs to be more outreach to local, state and federal agencies to identify resources that can help spur development in the City. We have started on the County level but are looking to assist the Mayor with his meeting with the State agencies, i.e. Department of Commerce, Housing and Community Development, and

the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention. At this meeting, we will be looking to participate in a program that can assist in ridding the City of its vacant housing problem.

Indicate problems identified, barriers encountered and solutions reached.

Once again, the major problem and barrier is personnel. Due to the lack of resources in that area, we have assigned the current contractual grants manager to a weekly meeting 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 solution has been extremely valuable because it allows the Economic Development department to have a more hands-on approach with the grant writer to evaluate her performance as well as to provide leadership in becoming more aggressive with obtaining grants for the City. This protocol has been followed throughout the month and has resulted in the identification of more grant resources and organization and monitoring of current grants.

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.

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 quick enough 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

Attachments: N/A