Small Business Advisory Council Meeting – Minutes
Thursday, February 24, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Lieutenant Governor Jon Husted at 10:00 AM.

The following members were present:

- Mr. Greg Simpson
- Senator George Lang
- Ms. Tyeis Baker-Baumann

Lieutenant Governor Husted provided an overview of CSI’s Innovate the Code legislation. The goal of the bill is to streamline Ohio law. The legislation was developed using an artificial intelligence tool to identify regulations that stall innovation, slow down business, and cost taxpayer money. As introduced, the bill is estimated to save 58,000 hours of state employee time and $44 million over the next decade.

Lieutenant Governor Husted then provided an update regarding the Intel manufacturing facility project in central Ohio. Intel’s investment in Ohio manufacturing will reduce America’s dependence on foreign semiconductor production. Aligning Ohio education with job opportunities created by projects like this is critical to benefit Ohioans and Ohio businesses.

Director Sherry Mayfield of the Ohio Department of Commerce provided an overview of the various divisions and programs at the Department of Commerce, including the Medical Marijuana Control Program. The Department regulates growers, processors, and testing labs for medical marijuana. The Department’s goals for the medical marijuana program are to promote safety for the public and fairness in the marketplace—to ensure small business has an opportunity to compete in the industry.

Mr. Geoff Eaton, Superintendent of the Division of Industrial Compliance, discussed the Division’s purpose and function, particularly with respect to the building department. The Division is currently working to meet with students to provide information about opportunities that exist for building inspectors and to inform currently employed individuals who might be interested in a career change regarding the opportunities provided by the occupation.

Mr. Steve Clegg, Bureau Chief, Division of Industrial Compliance provided an overview of the Wage and Hour section of the Division, particularly relating to the Manufacturing Mentorship Program. The program was created three years ago by the legislature to help get more high school youth involved in trades and address business shortages in manufacturing labor. The program enables students to receive mentorship and training through a business in a manufacturing sector. The program often involves collaboration with career technical institutions.

Ms. Baker-Baumann noted the logistical challenges for certain businesses where it is less feasible to alternate students spending two weeks on the job and two weeks in school.

Mr. Michael Frazier, Community Services Chief Ohio Department of Development provided an overview of the Brownfield Remediation Program. Guidelines for the program are in place and the application process is online. There are $350 million in total funds available with at least $1 million designated for each county. Mr. Frazier also provided an overview of the Demolition and Site Revitalization Program, which allots $150 million across
the state and $500,000 per county to support demolition and revitalizations of certain properties. The Department collaborates with local entities to identify targeted locations that maximize benefit to the local community.

Mr. Patrick Smith, Deputy Chief of BroadbandOhio provided an update regarding the Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Program. The goal of the program is to provide broadband service to underserved and unserved communities across state, build a best-in-class broadband network, and get high-speed internet to every Ohioan. Mr. Smith provided an overview regarding various pilot projects ongoing with BroadbandOhio.

Senator Lang thanked the CSI team and the presenters for their work on promoting economic growth in Ohio. Such growth is critical to Ohio succeeding in regaining a congressional seat during the next census.

Ms. Baker-Baumann encouraged continued collaboration as a part of promoting economic growth in Ohio. Aligning education systems with business needs is necessary for such growth to continue.

Senator Lang agreed and thanked the Lieutenant Governor for being a champion for small business.

Mr. Ethan Wittkorn, Business Advocate for CSI, provided an overview of a recent rule package addressing commercial dog breeding regulations.

Mr. Jacob Ritzenthaler, Business Advocate for CSI, provided an overview of recent rule packages addressing the use of technology in developmental disabilities service provision, payment processes for hospitals, and upcoming sports gaming regulations that are being developed by the Casino Control Commission.

Mr. Joseph Baker, Business Advocate for CSI, provided an overview regarding a recent rule package implementing the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, which allows doctors to more expeditiously obtain licensing privileges in other compact states.

Director McCullough asked the members if there are ways that CSI can help promote awareness of its mission to help small businesses in Ohio.

Ms. Baker-Baumann welcomed CSI to discuss environmental regulations and transportation regulations in her area of the state.

Senator Lang mentioned that many of the current issues he hears about relate to the COVID-19 pandemic or federal regulations. Business owners in Ohio know that the state is improving the way it regulates business. It is important to better communicate what is happening to make sure people know what is going on at the state level.

Director McCullough concluded the meeting at 11:15 AM.