

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

NOTICE

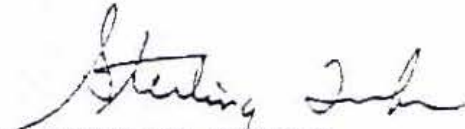
March 31, 1977

D.C LAW 1-97

"District of Columbia Business and Economic
Development Act of 1976"

Pursuant to Section 412 of the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act (PL 93-198), the Act, the Council of the District of Columbia adopted Bill No. 1-260 on first and second readings September 15, 1976, and October 12, 1976, respectively. Following the signature of the Mayor on November 19, 1976, this legislation was assigned Act No. 1-179, published in the December 10, 1976, edition of the D.C. Register, and transmitted to both Houses of Congress for a 30-day review, in accordance with Section 602(c)(1) of the Act.

The Council of the District of Columbia hereby gives notice that the 30-day Congressional Review Period has expired and, therefore, cites the following legislation as D. C. Law 1-97, effective March 29, 1977.


STERLING TUCKER
Chairman of the Council

(Ref. 23, DCRag. 3760, December 10, 1976)

D. C. LAW

1-97

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

March 29, 1977

To establish an Office of Business and Economic Development
and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
That this act may be cited as the "District of Columbia
Business and Economic Development Act of 1976".

Statement of Findings and Purposes

Sec. 2(a). The Council finds that:

(1) There exists in the District of Columbia a
substantial problem of chronic unemployment and
underemployment.

(2) In the last two decades, growth in employment,
new business development, and commercial development in the
District of Columbia has failed to keep pace with employment
growth and commercial expansion in neighboring
jurisdictions.

(3) During the same period, the District has
experienced a substantial loss in retail businesses and
other commercial enterprises which contributed significantly
to local employment and the city's tax base.

(4) Expansion of the tax base in the District of Columbia has, in recent years, lagged significantly behind the rate of inflation and the rate of increase in District of Columbia government expenditures.

(5) Substantial expansion of the tax base is necessary to help avert future governmental fiscal crises, prevent ever-increasing individual business and professional tax levels, and assure provision of necessary public services.

(6) The District of Columbia government lacks an organized capacity or comprehensive strategy to assess its economic needs, encourage business retention, attract commercial enterprises, or otherwise promote and stimulate economic growth.

(7) The absence of such a capacity and strategy has been a significant factor in the District's inability to compete with neighboring jurisdictions in the retention of existing businesses and the attraction of new enterprises.

(8) Direct and continuing active participation of all levels of the business community is essential to carrying out the objectives of this act.

(b) The purposes of this act are -

(1) to establish an office with ongoing responsibility to assess the economic needs of the city; stimulate new employment opportunities; assist existing businesses; promote the city as a location for businesses and investment to priority city locations in accordance with the city's comprehensive plan and its economic development objectives; and

(2) to centralize the economic development functions in the District of Columbia government in a single agency devoted solely to these tasks.

Establishment

Sec. 3. There is established within the Executive Office of the Mayor an Office of Business and Economic Development (hereinafter in this act referred to as the "Office"). The Office shall provide within the District government a single administrative unit, responsible to the Mayor, to serve as a focal point for planning, implementing and administering programs for promotion of economic activities in the District. The economic development functions, excluding business and professional licensing and regulation, staff to examining boards, enforcement of the District's housing, building, mechanical, electrical, and zoning codes, vested in the Department of Economic

Development pursuant to Order of the Commissioner No. 69-96 shall be transferred to the Office.

Functions

Sec. 4. The Office shall give priority to activities, including economic research and analysis, to stimulate employment, promote tourism and business retention, and to attract new commercial and industrial enterprises. Long range priorities shall include development and implementation with the Municipal Planning Office of an economic development plan for the District of Columbia.

(a) Pursuant to these priorities, the Office shall:

(1) Initiate and implement an ongoing economic and commercial survey including data to monitor business migration, business and commercial expansion, business opportunities, manpower availability, manpower needs, and other factors relevant to promotion of economic development.

(2) Assist businessmen and developers in securing research data needed for feasibility and market studies.

(3) Initiate and implement programs aimed at stimulating employment opportunities in the District of Columbia; retaining existing businesses in the District and attracting new commercial and industrial enterprises to the District, as well as, locating and encouraging investors for these enterprises.

(4) Develop and support programs to ensure minority business development and minority participation in public and private economic development activities.

(5) Coordinate the economic development functions of other District of Columbia Offices and Departments.

(6) Coordinate economic development activities and projects within the District of Columbia government pursuant to the priorities established in the comprehensive plan and through other actions taken by the District of Columbia government.

(7) Act as ongoing District of Columbia liaison with the business and commercial community and as a vehicle to assist existing businesses in their procedural relationships with the District Government, including but not limited to, the expediting of administrative processes such as approval of necessary permits, zoning actions, street closings and other relevant District Government administrative actions.

(8) Serve as liaison with pertinent Federal Government agencies and conduit for Federal economic development funding.

(9) Stimulate development or expansion of neighborhood commercial facilities and centers.

(10) Develop financial and technical assistance programs.

(11) Initiate and stimulate public investment as a catalyst to private investment in commercial and industrial enterprises otherwise unavailable to the District of Columbia.

(12) Recommend various types of commercial industrial development, incentives appropriate for certain development projects.

(b) Research.--- Basic research and statistical programs would be undertaken in the following areas:

(1) Land use studies of urban renewal, housing, and industrial sites, with emphasis on the disposition of idle industrial land, factories and commercial properties.

(2) Taxes, including such matters as determining new areas for new revenue for the city and possible tax incentives to encourage development; an examination of the affect of the District tax structure on certain industries; assessing the comparability of the tax structure.

(3) An examination of the District Government powers, organization and practices as they affect economic development;

(4) Special industry problems, including the District's mature and declining industries.

Staffing

Sec. 5(a) The Office shall be headed by an Executive Director (hereinafter in this act referred to as the "Director"), who shall be appointed by the Mayor . The Director shall devote his full-time to the duties of his Office, and shall appoint qualified staff including a "Business Ombudsman" charged primarily with the implementation of the functions provided in subsection (g) of section 4 of this act. The annual compensation of the Director shall be determined in accordance with Chapter 51 of Title 5, U.S. Code (relating to the classification of government employees and related matters), but shall be no less than a GS-16, step one.

(b) Promotional Contracts. -- In order to best carry out his duties and responsibilities and to serve the people of the District of the promotion of business economic development, the Director may engage in programs and projects jointly with a private person, firm, corporation or association, and may enter into contracts under terms to be mutually agreed upon to carry out such programs and projects

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not including acquisition of land or buildings. Such contracts may be negotiated and shall not be subject to the provisions of section 1-808 of the D.C. Code, insofar as such provisions relate to competitive bidding.

Funding

Sec. 6. The Office shall be funded by a variety of sources currently available or potentially available in the future, including, but not limited to, Federal loans and grant funds, Community Development Block Grant funds, District of Columbia government appropriated or borrowed funds, and private endowments. Sources of funding for the Office shall include no less than \$300,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds conditionally approved by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development for Business and Economic Development Programs, pursuant to the Department's approval on June 24, 1975 of the District of Columbia "Application for Federal Assistance for a Community Development Block Grant Program - 1975".

Effective Date

Sec. 7. This act shall take effect upon the expiration of the period for Congressional review provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act.

Considered in Council _____

First Vote September 15, 1976

RECORD OF COUNCIL VOTE

COUNCIL MEMBER	AYE	NAY	N.V.	A.B.	COUNCIL MEMBER	AYE	NAY	N.V.	A.B.	COUNCIL MEMBER	AYE	NAY	N.V.	A.
TUCKER	X				DIXON	X				SPAULDING	X			
MOORE, D.	X				HARDY	X				WILSON	X			
BARRY	X				HOBSON	X				WINTER	X			
CLARKE	X				MOORE, J.	X								
COATES				X	SHACKLETON	X								

X—Indicates Vote A. B.—Absent N. V.—Not Voting

Robert A. Williams

 (Secretary of the Council)

Final Vote in Council October 12, 1976

RECORD OF COUNCIL VOTE

COUNCIL MEMBER	AYE	NAY	N.V.	A.B.	COUNCIL MEMBER	AYE	NAY	N.V.	A.B.	COUNCIL MEMBER	AYE	NAY	N.V.	A.
TUCKER	X				DIXON	X				SPAULDING	X			
MOORE, D.	X				HARDY				X	WILSON	X			
BARRY	X				HOBSON		X			WINTER	X			
CLARKE	X				MOORE, J.	X								
COATES	X				SHACKLETON	X								

X—Indicates Vote A. B.—Absent N. V.—Not Voting

Robert A. Williams

 (Secretary of the Council)

Presented to the Mayor _____

Robert A. Williams

 (Secretary of the Council)

Mayor's Action:

Approved: 19 NOV 1976
 Disapproved: _____

Maeta Washburn

 (Mayor's Signature)

Enacted without Mayor's Signature _____

 (Secretary of the Council)