

Small Business Task Force Minutes:

- **Date/Time:** August 19, 2025, 5:32–6:32 PM
- **Chair:** Rebecca Reckers
- **In Attendance:** Mayor Jessica Fette; Council Members: Rebecca Reckers, Chair, Tyson Hermes, Jennifer Jasper-Lucas, Diana Niceley; City Attorney Jack Gatlin; Community Member Nick Eads
- **Next Meeting:** October 7, 2025, 5:30 PM

Key Discussion Points:

1. Approval of Minutes:

- Minutes from the March 18 meeting approved unanimously.

2. Incentive Programs Review:

- Last year's programs were highly successful, leveraging \$522,000 from \$129,000 spent (4:1 ROI).
- Additional \$20,000 added for a total of \$150,000 for the current fiscal year.
- Strong demand: 14 active submittals totaling \$120,000; \$30,000 still available.
- Goal: have all projects ready by July 1 next year to allow for expansion or new incentives.

3. Private Development Incentives:

- Used to encourage business improvements, expansions, and acquisitions in Erlanger.
- Feedback suggests some incentives (e.g., CAP incentive) may need to be increased to attract larger investments.

4. Demolition Grants:

- Two potential projects: Dairy Queen partial demolition and St. Vincent de Paul property demolition.

5. Review of Other Cities' Incentive Programs:

- Norwood, Newport, Louisville examples considered for structuring Erlanger incentives.

- Emphasis on balancing property tax abatements, payroll tax credits, and new construction incentives.
- Considered 5–10 year incentives with possible extensions; goal is legal feasibility under Kentucky law.

6. Challenges & Considerations:

- Need to navigate Kentucky statutes creatively since the state lacks some local redevelopment tools (like Ohio's revitalization zones).
- Focus on vacant land, commercial and industrial development, and preventing misuse of incentives (e.g., data centers or non-profits avoiding taxes).
- Ensure zoning and moral clauses are applied appropriately.

7. Next Steps / Legislative Action:

- Jack Gatlin to draft potential legislation or policy framework for incentives, reflecting task force discussions and legal considerations.
- Discussion planned for October 7 meeting before council consideration.


Adjournment:

- Motion to adjourn: Diana Niceley; Second: Jennifer Jasper-Lucas. All approved at 6:32 PM.

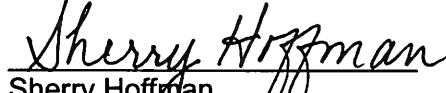
RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:


 Mark Collier
 City Administrator

APPROVED:


 Rebecca Recker, Chairperson
 Small Business Task Force

ATTESTED BY:


 Sherry Hoffman
 City Clerk



505 Commonwealth Avenue Erlanger, KY 859-727-2525

Memo

To:	Small Business Task Force
From:	Mark Collier, CAO
Date:	10/21/2025
Re:	FY2025–2026 Incentive Program Update

Program Overview

The City of Erlanger’s Small Business Incentive Program continues to drive visible reinvestment and corridor improvement. Since FY2021, the City has reimbursed **\$453,095.98**, catalyzing more than **\$1,709,083.08** in private investment across the community.

Top-Line Trends

- **FY2026 Appropriation:** \$150,000
- **Spent to Date:** \$97,917
- **Pending Requests with Dollars Spent to date:** \$145,750
- **Remaining Balance for FY 25/26:** \$4,250
- **Businesses Supported This FY:** 14 (plus one pending)
- **Average FY2026 Award:** \$8,160
- **Private-to-Public Leverage Ratio (since 2021):** 3.8 : 1

Fiscal Year Trends

- **Consistent Demand:** The program is again **on pace to exhaust its funding** before fiscal year-end.
 - **Corridor Focus:** Majority of investments concentrated along **Dixie Highway and Erlanger Road**, supporting corridor beautification and reinvestment.
 - **Steady Growth:** Annual participation and award totals have trended upward since FY2023.
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Visual Summary

Reimbursements Over Time (FY2019–FY2026)

(Line chart displayed)

Shows consistent program growth and increasing utilization.

FY2026 Incentive Utilization

(Pie chart displayed)

- **65%** of funds reimbursed
 - **35%** remaining
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Key Takeaways

- The program continues to demonstrate **strong ROI** and **visible corridor impact**.
- Funding is likely to be **fully obligated again this fiscal year**.
- Staff recommends the Task Force **evaluate expanding FY2027 funding** or establishing a **reserve or tiered award system** to sustain demand.

