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No Items this Week

City Offices Closed in Observance of New Year's Day

City administrative offices will be **closed** on **Friday, January 1** in observance of the **New Year's Day** holiday.

Regular Council Meeting Tuesday, January 5 - Afternoon and Evening Sessions

Reminder that Council will meet next **Tuesday** in regularly scheduled sessions at **1:00 P.M.** and **7:00 P.M.** The agenda for the meeting was published earlier today:

<https://go.boarddocs.com/nc/raleigh/Board.nsf>

Please note there will be a **Closed Session** immediately following the afternoon session of the Council meeting.

Reminder: If there is an item you would like to have pulled from the consent agenda for discussion, please send an e-mail mayorstaff@raleighnc.gov by 11 A.M. on the day of the meeting.

You will be receiving information on joining the WebEx Events session on Monday; staff will be available to assist with log ins and joining the virtual City Council meeting.

INFORMATION:

Webinar Scheduled to Help Small Businesses Navigate the New Federal Stimulus Package

Staff Resource: Mark Weldon, Office of Economic Dev. & Innovation, 996-3139, mark.weldon@raleighnc.gov

Staff with the Office of Economic Development and Innovation have scheduled an upcoming webinar to help small business owners find answers about the new Federal COVID-19 relief package. The virtual session will provide details about new Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL)

financial resources, including PPP loan forgiveness. The webinar is scheduled for Wednesday January 13 from 10:30-11:30 A.M.

Staff has coordinated to have as a featured presenter Patrick Rodriguez, Senior Area Manager for the US Small Business Administration (SBA), who will share the latest program updates, with emphasis on PPP and EIDL. This will be followed by a panel discussion with small business experts. Alex Viva, Center Director for the North Carolina Small Business Technology and Development Center (along with other panelists) will share practical advice for business owners seeking financial assistance associated with the ongoing public health crisis.

The announcement has gone out to the public through general City communication channels. It has also been shared directly with City Business Alliance Leaders and other Economic Development partners. The webinar event will be recorded and made available on the EDI web site for replays.

The Office of Economic Development and Innovation will continue to work closely with the local small business community to develop future webinar topics, and to connect small business owners with valuable resources and expertise.

For further reference, here are some of the business-related highlights from the new Federal stimulus package:

Small Business (\$325B):

Critical funding and policy changes to help small businesses, including minority-owned businesses, and nonprofits recover from the pandemic. This deal includes over \$284 billion for first and second forgivable PPP loans, dedicated set-asides for very small businesses and lending through community-based lenders like Community Development Financial Institutions and Minority Depository Institutions, and expanded PPP eligibility for 501(c)(6) nonprofits, including destination marketing organizations, and local newspapers, TV and radio broadcasters. \$20 billion is included for new EIDL Grants for businesses in low-income communities, \$3.5 billion for continued SBA debt relief payments, and \$2 billion for enhancements to SBA lending. This deal also includes \$15 billion in dedicated funding for live venues, independent movie theaters, and cultural institutions.

Direct Economic Relief for Workers and Families (\$286B):

Unemployment Insurance (\$120B): brings back the enhanced federal unemployment insurance bump, which expired in July. This bill provides an additional \$300 per week for all workers receiving unemployment benefits, through March 14, 2021. This bill also extends the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program, with expanded coverage to the self-employed, gig workers, and others in nontraditional employment, and the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) program, which provides additional weeks of federally funded unemployment benefits to individuals who exhaust their regular state benefits. The extension was critical in preventing as many as 14 million Americans from losing this economic lifeline at the end of the year. Additionally, the bill increases the maximum number of weeks an individual may claim benefits through regular state unemployment plus the PEUC program, or through the PUA program, to 50 weeks. The bill also provides an extra benefit of \$100 per week for certain workers who have both wage and self-employment income but whose base UI benefit calculation doesn't take their self-employment into account.

Direct Payments (\$166B): additional round of Economic Impact Payments of \$600 for individuals making up to \$75,000 per year and \$1,200 for couples making up to \$150,000 per year, as well as a \$600 payment for each child dependent. This means a family of four will receive \$2,400 in direct payments.

Includes a provision, which is retroactive to the CARES Act, to expand these direct payments to mixed-status households, importantly providing immigrant families across the country with access to this financial relief.

Support for Community Development Financial Institutions and Minority Depository Institutions (\$12B):

Funding for CDFIs and the creation of a new Neighborhood Capital Investment program to support CDFIs and MDIs and help low-income and minority communities withstand the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and respond to this unprecedented economic downturn.

Other areas addressed within the federal legislation include allocations for Transportation (\$45B); Vaccines, Testing, Tracing and Healthcare (\$69B); Schools (\$82B); and Rental Assistance (\$25B).

(No attachment)

Dix Park Leadership Committee Update

Staff Resource: Kate Pearce, Parks Recreation & Cultural Resources, 996-4855, kate.pearce@raleighnc.gov

At the December 15 meeting of the Dix Park Leadership Committee, Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates led a presentation and facilitated discussion on the pre-schematic design of the “Plaza & Play” project. As a part of the 2020 Memorandum of Agreement between the City and the Dix Park Conservancy, design of the Plaza & Play is being funded by the Dix Park Conservancy and managed by the City of Raleigh. The current conceptual design of +/- 16-acres focuses on features that may include a welcome plaza, picnic grove, multiple garden landscapes, restored historic structure and areas for nature, water and adventure play. In addition, the design includes opportunities for public art and historic interpretation.

The design embraces and builds on the principles of the Master Plan: open up and connect, build from what is there, and offer something for everyone. The themes of accessibility and environmental sustainability also permeate the design. The following image illustrates the current pre-schematic design direction:

A Park for Raleigh



Throughout this process, community feedback has informed the design. The next public meeting for the Plaza & Play is scheduled for Tuesday, January 19, 2021. It will be a virtual event. For more information, visit the project website at <https://dixpark.org/plazaplay>.

A recording of the Leadership Committee meeting can be found on the DixPark YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/dixpark>. In addition, all meeting notes and materials, including the Plaza & Play presentation, from this and previous meetings are accessible from the *BoardDocs* electronic agenda system.

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