

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: David J. Deutsch
City Manager

SUBJECT: *Status Report*

DATE: September 10, 2015

Status Report

1. Economic Development Committee (EDC)

The EDC met Wednesday and commenced their review and update of the EDC's 2006 Strategic Economic Development Vision for Bowie, Maryland, in 2016.

Why is Economic Development Important to the City of Bowie?

- To generate revenue from sources other than homeowners.
- Increase number of non-residential taxpayers.
- Maintain and enhance a high quality of life.
- We want to bring shopping and working choices to our citizens, improve the quality of life and to make the City an attractive place for future generations, and protect the things that make the City what it is.

They then proceeded to an initial assessment of the Strategic Economic Development Vision for Bowie, Maryland, in 2016 as envisioned ten years ago:

In 2016, the City of Bowie, Maryland is a dynamic, vibrant, and diverse community. Bowie is the premier business-friendly center of corporate and personal economic growth and prosperity in the region. Bowie offers our residents an enviable suburban lifestyle with a high quality of life, a well-managed government, outstanding public services, excellent and comprehensive educational opportunities, and a low crime rate.

To make this vision a reality, the City must aggressively support business development, retention, and expansion efforts, balanced by business attraction efforts for economic diversity, health, and stability.

Success means that a visitor to Bowie during the City's 100th Anniversary in 2016 will see:

- A revitalized Old Town Bowie that is both a “go to” area for antiques and an eclectic mix of shops and restaurants serving local shopping and regional dining demands;
- Strong ties and links between the City and Bowie State University;
- A refreshed, renewed, and reinvented “Route 450 – Bowie Main Street” that is a commercial, cultural, arts, and municipal center;
- A vigorous and competitive retail sector in all parts of the City;
- Diverse professional employment and business opportunities within the City;
- A flourishing environment for start-up businesses that serves as the first step to thriving enterprises;
- Academically challenging and high performing schools from pre-kindergarten through adult post-graduate and executive education;
- A City with greater control over its economic destiny; and,
- An intra-City public transportation network connecting all corners of Bowie.
- A vigorous and competitive tourism industry within the City.

Over the next several months the EDC will explore the above topics in depth as they craft their recommendations to the City Council for Bowie's economic future.

City Council Liaison Marcos attended and provided an update on recent Council actions.

County Councilman Turner attended and provided an overview of his work on behalf of the City.

The next regular meeting of the EDC is Wednesday, October 14, 2015.