

November, 2020

I. HOUSING RECRUITMENT

A. **Sidney** – Sent over the latest housing brochure, general housing updates, and link to the City's Community Information Map to the folks at Revcorp. They are specifically interested in the 960 LLC property.

II. WORKFORCE RECRUITMENT

A. **Sidney** – Working with a gentleman out of El Paso, who is planning to expand his law firm and open an office in Carlsbad. He will be looking to fill a full-time paralegal position.

B. **Sidney** - Sent over another resume I had on file to help try and fill an open position for an administrative assistant at Lakeview Christian Homes.

C. **Jeff** - Unemployment for Eddy County was 7.3% for October, down from 8.4% last month. The state as a whole is at 8.1%, with our neighbors in Lea County at 11.5% and Chaves at 8.5%.

III. OIL, GAS & ALTERNATE ENERGY

A. **John**- This month, for the first time in over 15 months, we were passed by Lea County as the most active drilling county in United States. Lea County now has 30 active rigs, followed by Eddy with 28 and Midland County with 23. There are at least two dozen rigs in storage within Eddy County at staging yards south of Loving.

B. **John** – Met again with owner of Project Distillery, a company looking to build a distillate recovery plant in Eddy County. Have provided information on available property that fits his needs. His company is currently negotiating with two property owners in south Eddy County.

IV. MEDICAL

A. **John**- Project Tooth Fairy, a new orthodontic clinic, continues its construction on N. Canal Street north of the Little Caesars building. They are still shooting for a late spring opening.

V. NUCLEAR

A. **John**- Attended a webinar put on by NEI and the ECA about nuclear fuel transportation and storage. As the push for carbon-free fuels continue to intensify in the coming years, the need to handle and store used nuclear fuel increases. The Holtec project that the CDOD and ELEA have worked on for over 15 years will continue to be more important and more needed.

B. John- Attended an ECA meeting that looked at the prognosis of the election results and its possible impact on the federal budget (WIPP is our main concern), COVID relief legislation, and what the newly elected Congress will bring. There was cautious optimism that EM and WIPP will continue to be adequately funded.

VI. RETAIL/RESTAURANTS/ENTERTAINMENT/HOSPITALITY

A. Jeff – Project Dalmatian is one that I have worked on over the years, but nothing has ever come of it outside of some interest in our market. Recently, through channels associated with Retail Strategies, we have entered into discussions with the regional franchisee about Carlsbad getting a location. They have asked for some top-level market information, and I have begun to put together possible sites for them to review.

B. Jeff – Project Brew is percolating! The franchisee of this business is interested in Carlsbad and has requested information. They need about 15,000 square feet and have taken a brief look at some possible sites in Carlsbad.

C. Jeff – Project Buzz informed me that their corporate bank has put a pause on all lending into his business, primarily due to COVID shutdowns affecting cash flow. So, for the time being, they are not moving forward just yet.

D. Jeff – Project Bealls Afterlife has executed their lease at the Carlsbad mall. As soon as they are ready, we will make a formal announcement.

E. Jeff – Project Daddy Dough has found a location! The franchisee informed me that they have selected a site and are working on the purchase agreement. As soon as that finalizes, they will get with me on the specific location and other ideas.

F. Jeff – In talking with a developer out of Albuquerque that I have been working with for several months, he informed me that they are under contract with a property I directly found for them on the south side of Carlsbad. More news soon as they continue to progress.

VII. AVIATION

A. John- Met a number of times with company officials from Project Rose, which is an MRO and large aircraft storage operation that the mayor brought to our attention in the early summer. They are interested in coming here and need a LOI (attached in your packet) signed by City and CDOD to move forward with investigations. They also need information of the density of the ground off of the runway for the large jets to be stored. Working with Mayor's office on these items.

VIII. ADMINISTRATION

A. John- Attended the SNMEDD Economic Recovery Team Meeting via internet. This regional group is working on a comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the region in light of the economic challenges of the day.

B. John- Entire staff has dedicated the majority of their time to processing CARES Act applications and meeting with local businesses.

1. We received 80 applications in total between the City and the County, of which, 80 have been screened.
 - a) Of these 80 applications, there are \$15.5 million in total requests (~\$13 million in eligible requests).
 - (1) Of the eligible expenses, \$10.6 million for city businesses and \$2.4 million for county businesses
 - b) Only one business was ineligible so far, based on the required criteria in their application.
2. The RLF/Cares Act Advisory Board is currently reviewing and ranking the last 29 screened applications based upon the State DFA Criteria given to the local governments. We have had three meetings of the group to date.
3. Produced a spreadsheet that, once the scores have been turned in and entered, calculates the final score and prorates the amount based upon the amount received by each local government. It is our goal to have this complete by this week.

C. Sidney-Called applicants with requests for missing information and/or document clarification. This information is gathered to ensure the application is complete and all information corresponds with any changes made. In many cases these correspondences require multiple calls and reviews for the application to be complete. Once I receive the requested documents, I review them and incorporate them into the application before handing it over for final review to John. I continued to request and receive information from applicants until 11/24/20.

D. Sidney-Once applications were complete, I assisted in the printing and organizing of the copies for the review board.

E. Sidney-Handled email and telephone correspondence from applicants who are requesting updates on the status of their applications. I have been informing all who have asked of the dispersal deadline in January and general steps applications are in the process of going through prior to dispersal of funds. Jeff – We were able to get through all of the CARES act grants which took most of the month up to and through Thanksgiving. As reported, we have been working on the grant applications to get them prepared for assessment.

F. Jeff –With the opening of the new T-Mobile store, I was able to get departmental staff updated phones and save CDOD approximately \$100 per month in the process. I also worked with their marketing and legal departments on getting a press release sent out regarding their new store here in Carlsbad.

G. Jeff – Upon the temporary closure of the Carlsbad Albertsons, there was a surge in rumors going around on what stores would close next. I passed on the online link from the New Mexico Environment Department that lists businesses both on the watch list and those that had been shut down to try and quell the public. This was shared with our CDOD members and on social media.

H. Jeff – I have been tracking unemployment and gross receipts taxes during the COVID pandemic. The following graphs show the picture of what the state shutdowns have done to unemployment and taxable gross receipts aspects. The main focus was on retail.



