

**UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE APRIL 27, 2020 MEETING OF THE
FAIRFAX COUNTY SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION**

ONLINE MEETING ON CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY

Location: Zoom Online Meeting

Attending: **SBC Members**

Tracey Wood (At-Large), Joseph Underwood (Braddock), Malachi B. Jones, Jr. (Dranesville), Kelly Hebron (Lee), Melody Thorson (Mt. Vernon), Marvin Powell (Sully)

Staff

Cathy Muse, Chris McGough, Ron Shoram, DPMM, Rebecca Moudry, Meaghan Kiefer, DEI

Guests

None

Absent: **SBC Members**

John Pellegrin (At-Large), Sha Scott-Boyd (At-Large), Gwyn Whittaker (Hunter Mill), Daren Shumate (Mason), Nalin Jain (Providence), Kyle McDaniel (Springfield)

The Small Business Commission convened by online meeting (Zoom) to discuss the coronavirus emergency and impacts to the small business community. The public was encouraged to participate with registration links and contact information for alternative accommodations posted online. The meeting began at 7:00 p.m. and was facilitated by Chairman Powell.

- **Chairman Powell conducted the following actions relevant to electronic meetings:**
 - A vote was conducted to ensure that each member of the BAC may be adequately heard and that all members could hear each other (approved).
 - A vote was conducted to verify that the usual FOIA procedures cannot be implemented safely or practically (approved).
 - A vote was conducted to verify that every item on the agenda is related to the emergency (approved).

- **Staff updates:**
 - Meaghan Kiefer with the Dept. of Economic Initiatives (DEI) provided an update on the County's response and resources available to the business community. The County continues to host a website with emergency information specific to businesses: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/covid19/information-businesses-impacted-coronavirus>. The County's Small Business Covid-19 Recovery Microloan was then discussed. Details include:
 - \$2.5M Fund to provide capital to existing Fairfax County small businesses which were solvent prior to COVID-19 and have been affected by efforts to contain it
 - \$20,000 loans, secondary position to SBA or other loans

- Small businesses (fewer than 50 employees) based in Fairfax County for 2 or more years, in a commercial location
 - Program to be administered by the Community Business Partnership (CBP).
 - The program will open April 28 – as of 4/27/20 at 9:00 AM 1094 businesses had emailed the CBP to request application information.
 - Extensive outreach efforts (38,000 postcards, robo calls, information disseminated in multiple languages, etc).
 - **Website:** <https://cbponline.org/financing/fairfax-microloan-program/>
- Rebecca Moudry, Director of the Dept. of Economic Initiatives and Meaghan Kiefer answered questions from the SBC and encouraged the SBC to keep an open dialogue with the Dept. of Economic Initiatives to help strengthen Fairfax’s response. The discussion included the following: the continued importance of federal resources like the PPP and SBA loans (there are over 30,000 small businesses in Fairfax County that have fewer than 50 employees), the microloan is designed to include business counseling (by the CBP) for all applicants including those who do not receive funding, microloan repayments will go to a revolving fund to provide future loans to small businesses, microloan feedback will be provided to the Board and it is expected that additional programs/resources, etc will be developed. Additional discussion included the need to support businesses as they plan for re-opening and recovery. The following link was provided which references the Governor’s guidance:
<https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorvirginiagov/governor-of-virginia/pdf/Slide-Deck-4-24-2020-.pdf>.
- Cathy Muse, Director of the Dept. of Procurement and Material Management, provided an update on support for the non-profit community. Similar programs are being designed to assist the non-profit community. The Board will be discussing options and funding at their May 5th meeting. More information to come. Ms. Muse asked that the SBC continue to funnel information and ideas from the business community to DPMM.
- **Discussion of how Commissioners can help disseminate the message.**
 - The SBC discussed communication of existing resources and the importance of sharing credible information broadly in the business community. See above for the link to the microloan program.

Adjournment – Chairman Powell ended the meeting at 8:08 p.m.