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>> I'M CONVENING THIS MEETING OF  
THE BOSTON CITY COUNCIL WAYS AND  
MEANS.

I'M KINSEY BOK, CHAIR OF THE  
COMMITTEE.

I'M JOINED BY MICHAEL FLAHERTY  
AT LARGE, COUNCILLOR KIM JANNEY,  
COUNCILLOR BREEDEN, COUNCILLOR  
MEJIA AND COUNCILLOR  
ESSAIBI-GEORGE.

THIS SESSION IS BEING REPORTED  
AT BOSTON.GOV.

IT WILL BE REBROADCAST ON  
COMCAST CHANNEL 8, RCN CHANNEL  
82, VERIZON 1964.

THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET REVIEW  
PROJECT TAKES PLACE OVER EIGHT

WEEKS.

THESE WORKING SESSIONS ARE A  
CHANCE FOR COUNCILLOR MEMBERS TO  
BRAIN STORM FOR HEARINGS.

WE DON'T TAKE PUBLIC TESTIMONY  
BUT WE DO ENCOURAGE YOU WATCHING  
AT HOME TO GET INVOLVED IN THE  
PROCESS THROUGH PUBLIC  
TESTIMONY.

THERE'S A NUMBER OF WAYS TO DO  
THAT.

YOU CAN GO ON OUR WEB SITES,  
BOSTON.GOV AND LEARN ALL ABOUT  
THE PROCESS.

YOU CAN SUBMIT A TWO-MINUTE  
VIDEO WHICH WE'LL PLAY AT THE  
END OF THE HEARING.

YOU CAN ALSO SUBMIT WRITTEN  
COMMENTS.

YOU CAN SUBMIT THEM THROUGH THE  
FORM OR SEND THEM TO US TO BE  
INCLUDED IN THE RECORD.

YOU CAN SEND US COMMENTS IN ANY  
LANGUAGE.

YOU CAN TESTIFY IN ANY LANGUAGE  
AND WE'LL GET THAT TRANSLATED.

WE HAVE TWO DEDICATED PUBLIC  
TESTIMONY HEARINGS AFTER WE  
HEARD FROM ALL THE

ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENTS.  
SO ON MAY 26 AT 6:00 P.M., WE'LL

HAVE ONE FOCUSED ON BPS AND ON  
MAY GO 8 AT 6:00 P.M., WE'LL  
HAVE ONE FOCUSED ON THE REST OF  
THE CITY BUDGET.

YOU CAN ALSO ALWAYS ATTEND ONE  
OF OUR VIRTUAL HEARINGS THROUGH  
THE PUBLIC NOTICE ONLINE.

YOU CAN WATCH IT ON THE CITY  
COUNCIL TV CHANNEL.

BUT YOU CAN WAIT IN THE ZOOM  
WAITING ROOM AND WE'LL TAKE  
PUBLIC TESTIMONY AT THE END OF  
EACH HEARING.

SO THOSE ARE A NUMBER OF WAYS TO  
GET INVOLVED.

WE HOPE YOU WILL.

YOU CAN FORMALLY TWEET YOUR  
QUESTIONS ON TWITTER.

NOW, TURNING TO THE TOPIC OF  
TODAY'S WORKING SESSION.

THIS IS FORMALLY CONCERNED WITH  
DOCKETS 0588, 0590, ORDERS FOR  
THE NY-21 OPERATING BUDGET FOR  
THE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT AND OTHER  
POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS.

0591-92, ORDERS FOR CAPITAL  
TRANSFER APPROPRIATIONS AND  
ORDERS OF THE CAPITAL BUDGET  
INCLUDING LEASE AGREEMENTS.

THAT SET OF DOCKET LIST ARE THE  
WHOLE SET OF APPROPRIATIONS  
RELATED TO THE FY-21 BUDGET  
PROCESS AND WHAT WE'RE FOCUSED  
ON TODAY.

THIS WORKING SESSION IS THE  
OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
AND THE BOSTON EQUITY FUND.

SO BOTH OF THOSE THINGS.

BASICALLY WE'RE HAVING THE  
OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
IN FOR A HEARING ON MAY 12.

THIS IS PREPARING THE COUNCIL'S  
QUESTIONS FOR THAT HEARING.  
OBVIOUSLY OFFICE OF ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT HAS NEVER BEEN MORE  
TOP OF MIND AND GIVING THE  
COVID-19 CRISIS, IT'S SOMETHING  
OF HUGE IMPORTANCE TO THE WHOLE  
COUNCIL AND SOMETHING WHERE THE  
BUDGETARY MONEY THAT WE DEVOTE  
TO IT CAN REALLY HAVE A HUGE  
MULTIPLIER EFFECT AND BE  
CONSEQUENTIAL IN TERMS OF THE  
EFFECTIVENESS AND THE EQUITY OF

OUR RECOVERY.

SO I KNOW IT'S SOMETHING THAT MY COLLEAGUES AND I ARE INTERESTED IN AND COMMITTED TO WORKING ON.

SO WE'LL JUMP IN TO QUESTIONS.

WE'LL BE DOING WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING, RUNNING THROUGH COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS AND DO A FIRST ROUND.

I'LL ASK PEOPLE TO KEEP IT TO FIVE MINUTES OR SO IN RESPECT TO THE OTHER COUNCILLORS TIMES AND WE'LL DO A SECOND ROUND.

WE'LL TAKE EVERYTHING AT ONCE. IT'S REALLY JUST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND RUN IN THE ORDER OF ARRIVAL.

SO FOR MY COLLEAGUES, COUNCILLOR FLAHERTY, COUNCILLOR JANEY, COUNCILLOR BREADON AND ARROYO FROM DISTRICT 5 HAVE ALSO JOINED US.

AS THE CHAIR, I'LL RESERVE MY QUESTIONS TO THE END.

COUNCILLOR FLAHERTY, YOU HAVE THE FLOOR.

>> THANK YOU.

MINE IS STRAIGHTFORWARD.

I JUST WANT TO KNOW WHAT THE PLAN IS GIVEN THE NEW CIRCUMSTANCES THAT OUR CITY FINDS ITSELF IN.

SPEAKING OF THE BOSTON EQUITY FUND, YOU KNOW, WE TALKED A LITTLE BIT ABOUT SOME OF THE CHALLENGES YESTERDAY IN OUR BUDGET HEARING.

JUST IN LIGHT OF THE SHUTDOWN AND I GUESS LACK OF INPUT WITH RESPECT TO THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND PARTICULARLY THE CANNABIS WORLD, IT'S A CHANGED GAME.

I'M CURIOUS TO SEE WHAT THEIR PLAN IS, WHAT IMPACTS THE SHUTDOWN HAS HAD ON OUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND THE BOSTON EQUITY FUND AND LET'S TRY TO WORK TOGETHER.

GOOD NEWS YESTERDAY WITH THE COMMUNITY BLOCK GRAND FUNDS, THAT WAS A GREAT DAY FOR THE CITY AND THE COUNCIL AND THE

FOLKS THAT ARE IN NEED OF HOUSING AND RENTAL PROTECTION. THOSE LIVING WITH HIV. SO REALLY GOOD STUFF TO RECORD OUT YESTERDAY, WHICH WAS EXCELLENT. NOW OBVIOUSLY WE'RE DEALING WITH THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND THE EQUITY FUND. MY SENSE IS THINGS AREN'T SO GLOOMY RIGHT THERE. SO WE NEED TO WORK TOGETHER AS A LEGISLATIVE BODY, IDENTIFIED WHAT MEASURES CAN BE PUT IN PLACE WHEN WE GET THE GREEN LIGHT TO OPEN BACK UP AND HOW WE CAN GET STUFF JUMP-STARTED. IT'S ALL GOING TO COME WITH A PLAN. OUR HOPE IS THERE'S FOLKS THAT WE'RE TALKING RIGHT NOW THAT ARE WORKING ON A PLAN AND HOPEFULLY BE WILLING TO TAKE OUR INPUT ON IT. LOOK FORWARD TO LISTENING TO MY COLLEAGUES QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS. THAT'S IT FOR ME. I JUST WANT TO KNOW WHAT THE PLAN IS AND HOW WE'RE GOING TO GO ABOUT IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN TO GET BACK ON TRACK. THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIR. >> THANKS, COUNCILLOR FLAHERTY. NEXT UP IS COUNCILLOR KIM JANEY. WE'VE BEEN JOINED I'LL NOTE BY COUNCILLOR FROM DISTRICT 2. THANKS. I HAVE MY NOTES UP AND SPLIT MY SCREEN SO I CAN SEE YOUR GAVEL. I HAVE SEVERAL QUESTIONS. I'M GOING TO START WITH SOME QUESTIONS THAT ARE SPECIFIC TO MY DISTRICT. SOME OF THESE QUESTIONS WILL GET ANSWERED NEXT WEEK. I'M HAVING A COMMUNITY FORUM ON MAY 7 TO DISCUSS THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY OF THE SQUARE AND THIS IS AN AREA IN THE CITY THAT THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE PAST THROUGH MY LEADERSHIP HAS PAID SOME EXTRA ATTENTION TO.

I WANT TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW.

SO SOME QUESTIONS REGARDING THE SQUARE, WHAT SUPPORT IS BEING GIVEN TO THE BUSINESSES THERE ESPECIALLY NOW DURING COVID-19. I'M INTERESTED IN UNDERSTANDING IF THE CITY IS KEEPING TRACK OF WHICH BUSINESSES ARE STILL OPEN, WHICH HAVE HAD TO CLOSE, WHICH BUSINESSES WERE PLANNING TO RELOCATE, ARE WE IN TOUCH WITH THEM.

WHAT IS THE STATUS OVERALL OF THOSE THAT HAVE HAD TO CLOSE INCLUDING SOME THAT WERE ON THE ESSENTIAL BUSINESS LIST.

THERE'S SOME FOOD PLACES THAT HAVE HAD TO CLOSE BECAUSE THEY WERE VERY DEPENDENT ON THE EMPLOYEES OF THE BOWLING BUILDING THE SUPPORT THEIR BUSINESSES.

WHEN PEOPLE WORK FROM HOME, THERE'S LESS BUSINESSES FOR THEM.

THERE'S RESTAURANTS AND CAFES HAVE HAD TO CLOSE.

WHAT IS EOD DOING TO SUPPORT THEM SO WE CAN MAKE SURE THAT THEY'RE ABLE TO REOPEN.

I'M INTERESTED IN UNDERSTANDING IF ANY BUSINESSES AND MUSEUMS NEED RELIEF FROM THE SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF FUND.

IF SO, HOW MANY AND HOW MUCH. I WANT TO UNDERSTAND THE NEXT ROUND OF FUNDING IS GOING OUT AND HOW THE OUTREACH WILL BE DONE IN OUR COMMERCIAL DISTRICT.

CERTAINLY IN AREAS LIKE THE SQUARE THAT ARE IN TRANSITION WITH THE BOSTON EQUITY FUND.

THAT IS SOMETHING THAT WAS CREATED THROUGH THE ORDINANCE THAT WE PASSED LAST YEAR THAT I INTRODUCED.

THIS IS THE FIRST AND ONLY FUND OF ITS KIND IN THE COMMONWEALTH, THE BOSTON EQUITY FUND CREATED THROUGH THE CANNABIS ORDINANCE THAT WE PASSED.

I KNOW THAT FUND WAS SEEDED WITH A MILLION DOLLARS, WHICH WAS

GREAT.

THE FUND IS NOT ABLE TO GROW  
BECAUSE THERE'S NO RECREATIONAL  
BUSINESSES, THE MEDICAL  
BUSINESSES CAN SEED INTO IT.  
IT'S NOT GROWING AT THE PACE  
THAT WE HOPED IT WOULD GROW  
PRE-COVID.

LOTS OF QUESTIONS.

WHAT CAN THE MONEY BE USED FOR,  
HOW WILL IT BE ADMINISTERED, ARE  
WE ENSURING IT'S GOING TO EQUITY  
APPLICANTS AND WHAT TYPE OF  
THINGS.

IS THIS FOR BUILDING OUT YOUR  
SPACE KIND OF THING.

I'M INTERESTED IN UNDERSTANDING  
JUST AROUND -- WERE THERE FUNDS  
GOING INTO THE EQUITY FUND.

HOW MUCH WE ANTICIPATE  
COLLECTING OVERTIME FOR 2020  
GIVEN THAT WE'RE LIKELY TO SEE  
NOT MANY MORE OPEN UP THIS YEAR.  
AND WHO KNOWS WHEN THE ONE THAT  
DID OPEN WILL REOPEN.

I'D LIKE TO ANTICIPATE WHAT IS  
IN THE FUND.

CERTAINLY UNDERSTANDING THE  
FIRST QUARTER SALES, IF THERE'S  
ANYTHING TO REPORT THERE.

I REALLY WOULD LIKE TO  
UNDERSTAND OVERALL -- I  
UNDERSTAND THERE'S A DECREASE  
BUT THERE'S MORE OF A FOCUS ON  
CLOSING SOME OF THESE GAPS IN  
TERMS OF THE DISPARITIES THAT WE  
SEE OVERALL WHEN IT COMES TO THE  
OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
AND TRYING TO HELP THOSE LEFT  
BEHIND.

I'M WONDERING ABOUT THE  
ADDITIONAL FUNDS GOING TO  
DIVERSITY, THE DIVERSITY AND  
PROCUREMENT TEAM, HOW MUCH AND  
WHETHER OR NOT THAT IS AROUND  
STAFFING.

I HAVE QUESTIONS AROUND THE  
CHOICE NEIGHBORHOOD  
IMPLEMENTATION GRANT.

I BELIEVE THAT IS GETTING CUT.  
I'D LIKE TO UNDERSTAND MORE OF  
WHAT IS HAPPENING THERE.  
AND THEN THERE IS I BELIEVE  
\$20,000 IN INDUSTRIAL

CORPORATION GRANT FOR THE SUMMER  
SERIES THAT HAPPENS IN THE  
SQUARE.

I THINK IT WAS DOWN DUDLEY IS  
HOW IT WAS MARKETED THING.

I WANT AN UPDATE ON THAT.

THAT'S IT FOR ME, MADAM CHAIR.

THANKS SO MUCH.

>> THANK YOU, PRESIDENT JANEY.

NEXT UP IS COUNCILLOR LIZ  
BREADON TO BE FOLLOWED BY  
COUNCILLOR MEJIA.

>> SO MUCH WITH THIS BUDGET  
PROCESS.

IT'S MY FIRST BUDGET.

I'M REALLY INTRIGUED AND EXCITED  
TO LEARN MORE.

ONE OF MY CONCERNS IS THE IMPACT  
OF THE COVID CRISIS ON OUR MAIN  
STREETS AND NEIGHBORHOODS.

THAT IS SOMETHING THAT I'M  
CONCERNED ABOUT.

I'D LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE  
BOSTON EQUITY FUND.

WE HAVE A FEW CANNABIS  
BUSINESSES OUR PIPELINE.

I WAS WONDERING ABOUT THAT.

THE COVID CRISIS HAS PUT THE  
BRAKES ON THOSE BUSINESSES  
ROLLING OUT.

I'D LIKE TO KNOW HOW TO  
FACILITATE THAT PROCESS MOVING  
FORWARD.

JUST TO HAVE A BETTER  
UNDERSTANDING HOW THE COVID  
CRISIS WILL IMPACT THIS  
PARTICULAR ITEM IN THE BUDGET,  
THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, OFFICE  
OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IS GOING  
TO BE VITALLY IMPORTANT IN OUR  
RECOVERY PROCESS.

SO I'M HOPING THAT WE HAVE A  
STRATEGY TO GET THE BEST BANG  
FOR OUR BUCK OUT OF THAT  
DEPARTMENT GOING FORWARD.

THANK YOU.

>> GREAT.

THANK YOU SO MUCH, COUNCILLOR  
BREADON.

COUNCILLOR MEJIA AND COUNCILLOR  
ESSAIBI-GEORGE WILL BE NEXT.

>> THANK YOU.

THANK YOU.

LET ME JUST -- LIKE PRESIDENT

JANEY, VERY CURIOUS ABOUT THE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE EQUITY FUND. YOU KNOW, WHAT KIND OF OUTREACH IS BEING DONE IN THE COMMUNITY TO ENSURE THAT WE'RE GETTING THE INFORMATION OUT, CURIOUS AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THIS INFORMATION IS ALWAYS GOING OUT IN OTHER LANGUAGES ASIDE FROM ENGLISH IN TERMS OF THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT EXIST.

I'M CURIOUS IN TERMS OF ONE OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS LISTED IN THE OFFICE OF QUICK DEVELOPMENT IS THAT AN EXECUTIVE ORDER IN SUPPORT OF EQUITABLE PROCUREMENT PROCESSES TO ENSURE THAT WE'RE HEARING TO THE BEST PRACTICES AND OUTREACH TO BE CERTIFIED SMALL AND LOCAL MINORITY OWNED BUSINESSES.

I'M CURIOUS IF IT INCLUDES LGBT BUSINESSES AND THE CONTRACTING PROCESS.

DOES AOB SERVE UNDERSERVED BUSINESSES, LGBTQ, NON-ENGLISH BE SPEAKING BUSINESSES, JUST WONDERING, YOU KNOW, IN TERMS OF THEIR OUTREACH IF THEY'RE PLANNING TO EXPAND THEIR SCOPE.

I'M CURIOUS AS TO RIGHT NOW, THIS IS SPECIFICALLY TO THE SUPPLIER PORTAL, IS THE APPLICATION USED BY THE CITY TO PROCURE CONTRACTS TO BE FILLED BY BIDDERS.

OUR OFFICE HAS TRIED TO GO THROUGH THE PROCESS BECAUSE WE'RE LEARNERS TO SEE WHAT THE PROCESS LOOKS LIKE.

IT'S VERY DIFFICULT.

THERE'S OVER 43 PAGES OF INSTRUCTIONS ON THE HELP WITH SUPPLIER PORTAL WEBSITE.

MY QUESTION IS, IN WHAT OTHER WAYS CAN OEB MAYBE THE SUPPLIER PORTAL PROCESS EASIER FOR VENDORS, PARTICULARLY MINORITY WOMEN BUSINESS SPENDERS THAT DON'T SPEAK ENGLISH.

JUST PEOPLE IN GENERAL.

I THINK IT'S VERY DIFFICULT TO NAVIGATE THAT PORTAL.

JUST CURIOUS IN TERMS OF THE

OUTREACH, HOW MANY PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT THE PROCESS. IN PREPARATION FOR THE NATIONAL MAIN STREET CONVENTION IN 2021, OEB HAD ISSUED A REQUEST TO IDENTIFY MEASURES FOR THE BOSTON MAIN STREETS PROGRAM THROUGH A DEEP AND COMPREHENSIVE AMOUNT OF THE EXISTING SYSTEMS AND RESOURCES.

USES AND GAPS THAT IMPACT LOCAL ECONOMIC GROWTH.

WHEN CAN WE EXPECT TO HEAR THE RESULTS OF THE MAIN STREET CONVENTION STUDY.

JUST CURIOUS WHERE THAT LANDS.

AND CAN THEY EXPLAIN THE DIFFICULTY -- WE'RE TALKING SPECIFICALLY ABOUT THE MOGUL ENTERPRISE MANAGER'S POSITION.

43 PEOPLE APPLIED.

SIX RECEIVED INTERVIEWS.

ONE WAS BEING FIT.

I'M WONDERING IF THEY CAN SHARE ROLES AND FILLING THE POSITION AND CAN THEY GO INTO FURTHER DETAIL ABOUT THE RECRUITMENT POLICIES LOOK LIKE.

AND THEN I'M ALSO CURIOUS JUST OVERALL IN TERMS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

IS IT POSSIBLE TO LOOK AT OTHER WAYS TO ENGAGE YOUNG PEOPLE.

IS THERE AN APPETITE TO FIGURE OUT HOW DO WE INCLUDE YOUNG PEOPLE AS PART OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PIPELINE.

THERE'S A LOT OF YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS AND NOT ENOUGH RESOURCES OUT THERE FOR THEM.

SO JUST CURIOUS WHAT IF ANY OPPORTUNITIES EXIST THERE.

LASTLY, I DID HEAR FROM A LOT OF FOLKS THAT THE RELIEF FUND WAS VERY DIFFICULT.

A LOT OF FOLKS NEEDED IT.

CURIOUS WHAT IS THE PLAN MOVING FORWARD TO SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESSES BEYOND COVID-19.

THANK YOU.

THANK YOU SO MUCH.

COUNCILLOR ESSAIBI-GEORGE TO BE FOLLOWED BY ARROYO.

>> THANK YOU FOR THE QUESTIONS

ESPECIALLY AROUND THE EQUITY FUND.

SO I'LL SKIP THAT FOR MY QUESTIONS.

I APPRECIATE COUNCILLOR FLAHERTY'S QUESTIONS REGARDING THE PLAN.

ALL OF OUR BUSINESSES ARE SMALL BUSINESSES IN PARTICULAR ACROSS THE CITY OF BOSTON WILL NEED INTENSIVE SUPPORT.

I'M CURIOUS ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO THAT, SUBSTANTIAL DOUBLING DOWN OF NOT JUST OFFERING THE RESOURCES AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES THAT SMALL BUSINESSES WILL NEED ON THE OTHER END OF THIS BUT THE TECHNICAL SUPPORT, THE EXPERTISE AND BRINGING BUSINESSES BACK ONLINE.

I HAVE A PARTICULAR INTEREST AND WORRY IN BUSINESSES THAT ARE FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED AND RELY ON THAT BUSINESS FOR THEIR OWN FINANCIAL STABILITY FOR THEIR FAMILIES.

SO THAT IS A REALLY IMPORTANT SUBSET OF SMALL BUSINESSES OUR CITY.

THERE'S ALSO FOR ME JUST GENERALLY NOT SPECIFIC TO CORONA, THE IMPACT -- NOT THE IMPACT BUT THE WORK WE'RE DOING AS A CITY TO SUPPORT WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES.

I'M CURIOUS AROUND THE NUMBER OF BUSINESSES THAT ARE CONSIDERED WOMEN-OWNED AND SMALL BUSINESSES THE CITY OF BOSTON, IF THERE'S A WBE APPLICATION PROCESS, HOW MANY BUSINESSES ARE SORT OF IN THE PIPELINE OR IN A HOLDING PATTERN TO BECOME CERTIFIED AND WHAT ARE THOSE BUSINESS TYPES. WE'VE DONE WORK TO SUPPORT WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES PARTICULAR.

I AM A SMALL BUSINESS OWNER MYSELF.

SO I'M CURIOUS AS TO THE VERY SPECIFIC SUPPORTS THAT OEB HAS IN PLACE TO SUPPORT THOSE WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES OF ALL

DIFFERENT TYPES.

I'M CURIOUS WHAT THE BREAKDOWN  
ON TYPES, TOO.

AND THEN WE'VE TALKED A LOT  
ABOUT BECAUSE OF THE CURRENT  
SITUATION WITH THE PANDEMIC THAT  
SOME OF OUR OPERATIONS HAVE SHUT  
DOWN AROUND LICENSING AND ZONING  
AND IN PARTICULAR THOSE IMPACTS  
ON BUSINESSES, HOW ON THE OTHER  
END OF THIS AS WE WORK TO REOPEN  
HOW DOES EOB SEE ITS OWN OFFICE  
RESOURCES, WHICH WOULD BE A  
FINANCIAL INVESTMENT THROUGH THE  
BUDGET, HOW WILL WE USE THOSE  
RESOURCES TO INTENSELY SUPPORT  
BUSINESSES ON THAT RESTART, IF  
ANY LICENSES HAVE LAPSED OR NEED  
TO BE RENEWED OR UPDATED OR  
CHANGED, HOW DO WE SORT OF  
CREATE A FAST LINE OR A ZIP LINE  
OF SORTS TO MAKE SURE THAT THOSE  
BUSINESSES CAN COME ONLINE  
QUICKLY.

WE'VE TALKED AS A CITY QUITE  
EXTENSIVELY ABOUT SUPPORTING  
FOOD-RELATED BUSINESSES AND  
RESTAURANTS.

I THINK THAT WE NEED TO MAKE  
SURE THAT WE HAVE AN EQUAL BIT  
OF ATTENTION PAID TO BUSINESSES  
THAT ARE NOT RESTAURANT FOCUSED  
ALL THOSE THEY'RE CRITICALLY  
IMPORTANT IN GREAT PARTS OF OUR  
NEIGHBORHOODS ACROSS THE CITY.

I'M A BIG FAN OF NOT JUST TAKE  
OUT TUESDAY BUT TAKE IT EVERY  
DAY AND DOING WHAT I CAN TO  
SUPPORT RESTAURANT BUSINESSES.  
THERE ARE OTHER BUSINESSES IN  
THE PIPELINE.

WHERE THEY HAVE NEEDED OUR  
SUPPORT GENERALLY OUTSIDE OF  
THIS PANDEMIC, THIS MAGNIFIES  
SOME OF THEIR NEEDS.

SO I WILL -- I HAVE A FEW MORE  
QUESTIONS.

I'LL SAVE THEM FOR THE NEXT  
ROUND.

THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIR.

>> GREAT.

THANK YOU, COUNCILLOR

ESSAIBI-GEORGE.

COUNCILLOR ARROYO TO BE FOLLOWED

BY COUNCILLOR FLYNN.

>> THANKS.

I HAVE A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS  
HERE.

I'LL WATCH FOR YOUR GAVEL TO DO  
IN THE SECOND ROUND.

AND TO BEGIN THE ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOCUSES ON  
PARTNERING DEVELOPMENT, WHICH  
WILL BE A VERY IMPORTANT ASPECT  
OF POST COVID.

WHY IS IT DECREASING BY 13%.

WHY ARE PERSONNEL SERVICES  
DECREASING BY 21%.

SECOND, WHICH TRADES, IF ANY,  
HAVE CONSISTENTLY FALLEN BELOW  
THE REQUIRED PERCENTAGE OF HOURS  
PROVIDED BY BOSTON RESIDENTS AND  
WHAT THE IS THE OFFICE OF  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DOING TO  
ADDRESS THOSE ISSUES.

WHY IS THE SMALL AND LOCAL  
BUSINESS BEING DECREASED BY 31%,  
ALMOST 32%.

NEXT YEAR IS A TIME THAT THEY'LL  
NEED MORE ASSISTANCE.

MANY OF THE PERFORMANCE  
INDICATORS FOR THE SMALL  
BUSINESS PROGRAMS HAVE DECREASED  
FROM 18 TO 19 AND TO 19 TO 20.

IS THERE AN EXPLANATION WHY THAT  
TREND EXISTS AND HOW WE ADDRESS  
THAT.

ONE OF THE PERFORMANCE  
INDICATORS IS THE CITY OF BOSTON  
MONEY SPENT WITH MINORITY OR  
WOMEN BUSINESS CONTRACTS.

AND FOR THE TARGET FOR FISCAL  
YEAR 21, TDR.

I WAS LOOKING FOR CLARIFICATION  
ON WHAT THAT MEANS AND WHY  
THERE'S NO NUMERICAL QUANTITY  
FOR THAT COUNCILLOR FLAHERTY  
ASKED MY QUESTIONS ABOUT  
COVID-19.

JUST WHAT EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE  
TO DETERMINE THE DAMAGE THAT'S  
BEEN DONE TO THOSE CONTRACTS AND  
WHAT PLANS HAS OEB MADE TO  
ADDRESS THE COVID-19 IMPACT ON  
MINORITY OR WOMEN BUSINESS-OWNED  
CONTRACTS.

THE OTHER INDICATOR THING THAT  
WE'RE LOOKING FOR OR THAT MY

OFFICE IS LOOKING FOR IS SMALL  
AND LOCAL BUSINESS PROGRAM HAVE  
THE CITY OF BOSTON MONEY SPENT  
WITH MWBE CONTRACTS.

COULD YOU PROVIDE OR A NUMBER BE  
PROVIDED FOR THE MONEY SPENT ON  
NONMWBE CONTRACTS.

OEB LAUNCHED A STUDY TO REVIEW  
CITY CONTRACTING NOR MWBEs AND  
DOING BUSINESS.

WHAT WAS THE RESPECT OF THAT  
STUDY AND HOW ARE THE PRACTICES  
CHANGING NOR FISCAL YEAR 21 AND  
HOW ARE THEY BEING INFORMED OF  
THE RESPECTS OF THAT STUDY.

LOOKING FOR YOUR GAVEL.

DON'T SEE IT YET.

STILL GOOD.

COVID-19 REQUIRED THE CREATION  
OF A SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF FUND.  
MORE GENERALLY, WHAT IMPACT DOES  
COVID HAVE ON PLANNING AT THE  
EOB.

IF THE FUND WILL CONTINUE, DOES  
OEB HAVE ANY DATA ON RECEIVING  
THE FUNDS TO MAKE SURE ITS BEING  
DISPERSED EQUITABLY.

ALMOST DONE.

OF THE 80 OEB CONTRACTS, 83 ARE  
MINORITY OR SMALLBUSINESSES.  
ONE IS MINORITY OWNED, ONE IS  
WOMAN OWNED.

WHAT IS OEB DOING TO IMPROVE  
REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN-OWNED  
CONTRACTS ESPECIALLY WHEN THE  
MAJORITY OF THE CONTRACTS END  
JUNE 30th AND SEPTEMBER 25 OF  
THIS YEARS.

SO THAT IS CRUCIAL FOR ME.

AS FAR AS THE BOSTON EQUITY FUND  
GOES, WHY HASN'T THE BOSTON  
CANNABIS BOARD MET REMOTELY  
DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS.

ARE THERE ANY PLANS?

APPLICANTS -- WE RECEIVE CALLS  
ON THIS.

WHAT ARE DECISIONS WAITING TO BE  
MADE.

FIGURING OUT WHAT THE REMOTE  
PROCESS IS THERE.

THAT'S ALL THE QUESTIONS.

I THINK WE GOT THROUGH THEM.

IF THERE'S MORE, I'LL ASK THEM  
ON ROUND TWO.

THAT'S IT.  
THANKS SO MUCH.  
>> VERY SPEEDILY READ.  
>> I WAS TRYING TO RESPECT THE  
FIVE MINUTES.  
>> YOU GOT IT DONE IN LESS THAN  
FOUR.  
>> WOW.  
I'LL ELONGATE ON THAT NOW.  
>> THANKS SO MUCH.  
>> THANK YOU.  
>> A GREAT PLAY BACK FUNCTION  
THAT YOU CAN SLOW DOWN.  
ALL RIGHT.  
NO, DEFINITE CREDIT TO ALL  
CENTRAL STAFF TAKING NOTES ON  
THESE WORKING SESSIONS.  
NEXT UP IS COUNCILLOR FLYNN AND  
THEN HE WILL BE FOLLOWED UP BY  
MATT O'MALLEY FROM DISTRICT 6.  
COUNCILLOR FLYNN.  
YOU HAVE THE FLOOR.  
>> THANK YOU, COUNCILLOR BOK.  
LIKE YOU MENTIONED, I WANT TO  
SAY THANK YOU TO CENTRAL STAFF  
THAT IS DOING EXCEPTIONAL WORK  
HELPING US DURING THIS BUDGET  
PROCESS.  
SO THANK YOU CENTRAL STAFF.  
WE MISS SEEING THEIR SMILING  
FACES AT TIMES.  
SO THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING THAT  
YOU'RE DOING.  
I KNOW COUNCILLOR FLAHERTY AND  
COUNCILLOR ARROYO MENTIONED SOME  
OF THE SAME POINTS I HAD, SO I  
WON'T REPEAT THEM.  
MY MAIN FOCUS IS ON WHAT OUR  
PATH FORWARD IS SHORT TERM AND  
LONG-TERM PATH FORWARD AS IT  
RELATES TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.  
ARE WE ABLE TO DO KIND OF LIKE  
AN INVENTORY ON SMALL  
BUSINESSES, SEE WHERE THEY'RE AT  
AS IT RELATES TO SHORT TERM AND  
LONG-TERM, SEE WHAT THEIR PLANS  
ARE, WHAT SPECIFICALLY CAN THE  
CITY DO TO HELP THEM.  
IT ALMOST HAS TO BE A ONE-ON-ONE  
OUTREACH EFFORT TO THE SMALL  
BUSINESS OWNERS AND TO  
IDENTIFIED CHALLENGES THAT  
THEY -- THEY'RE GOING TO FACE AS  
WE GRADUALLY REOPEN THE CITY.

PAYING CLOSE ATTENTION TO SMALL BUSINESSES, MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESSES, WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES AND VETERAN-OWNED BUSINESSES IS SOMETHING THAT WE PROBABLY NEED TO FOCUS MORE ON AS WELL.

YOU KNOW, ESPECIALLY THESE BUSINESSES THAT HAVE BEEN HERE FOR A LONG TIME THAT ARE DOING WELL.

YOU KNOW, THIS CORONAVIRUS SHOULD NOT IMPACT THEIR FUTURE GOING FORWARD.

SO WE WANT TO PROVIDE THEM WITH ALL THE NECESSARY ECONOMIC TOOLS THAT WE CAN SO THAT THEY CAN CONTINUE TO BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR TO PROVIDE A GOOD SERVICE AND HIRING PEOPLE.

I'D ALSO LIKE TO DO AN INVENTORY ON OUR MAIN STREETS PROGRAM AND SEE WHAT CHALLENGES THEY ARE FOCUSING AS A GROUP AND PROVIDE THE NECESSARY RESOURCES TO HELP THEM.

THE OTHER POINT THAT I WANTED TO MAKE IS, YOU KNOW, CAN WE LOOK AT SOME NEIGHBORHOODS THAT DON'T HAVE A MAIN STREETS PROGRAM AND PROVIDE GOOD SERVICES TO THEM AND COORDINATE WITH THEM AND MAYBE HELP THEM IN THE PROCESS OF APPLYING FOR MAIN STREETS PROGRAM IF THAT IS SOMETHING THAT THEY MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN

DOING.

I ALSO WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT INCENTIVES THE CITY IS DOING TO ENSURE THAT OUR COMPANIES, BIG COMPANIES AND SMALL COMPANIES, REMAIN IN THE STATE.

WHAT HELP THEY MIGHT NEED TO CONTINUE STAYING IN BOSTON AND IF THERE ARE ANY CHALLENGES THAT THEY'RE EXPRESSING TO US RIGHT NOW.

AS IT RELATES TO CANNABIS, I THINK COUNCILLOR JANEY COVERED IT PRETTY WELL.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SEE WHAT ECONOMIC ASSISTANT THAT WE'RE ABLE TO PROVIDE TO COMPANIES IN

THE CANNABIS INDUSTRY THAT ARE CLOSE TO GETTING A LICENSE BUT THAT NOW ARE STRUGGLING FINANCIALLY BECAUSE OF THE CORONAVIRUS AND THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN AS A RESULT.

SO THOSE ARE SOME OF THE QUESTIONS I HAD.

THANK YOU, COUNCILLOR BOK, FOR CHAIRING THIS AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR GREAT LEADERSHIP AS THE CHAIR OF THE WAYS AND MEANS AS WELL.

>> THANK YOU SO MUCH, COUNCILLOR FLYNN, FOR ALL OF THOSE QUESTIONS.

NEXT UP, I'LL RECOGNIZE COUNCILLOR O'MALLEY.

>> THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIR.

I APOLOGIZE FOR COMING SO LATE TO THE WORKING SESSION.

BUT APPROPRIATELY, I WAS WORKING ON BUSINESS IN MY DISTRICT.

I WON'T TAKE UP TOO MUCH TIME.

I'LL REVIEW WHAT PRIOR QUESTIONS WERE ASKED AND I'M SURE THAT I WOULD AGREE WITH VIRTUALLY ALL OF THEM AS OF THIS MORNING.

IT WAS A GRIM STATISTIC THAT ADDITIONAL 3.4 MILLION AMERICANS FILED FOR UNEMPLOYMENT.

THE NUMBER OF AMERICANS THAT ARE NOW UNEMPLOYED IS CLOSE -- IS ABOVE 30 MILLION PEOPLE.

SO OBVIOUSLY THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT HEARING OUGHT TO AND WILL I THINK PRIMARILY FOCUS ON RECOVERY AND REALLY JUST ADDRESSING THE ISSUES AROUND ECONOMIC INSECURITY IN BOSTON AND BEYOND.

MY QUESTION IS THE PATH FORWARD, LOOKING AT SUPPORT THAT WE CAN OFFER REALISTIC SUPPORT, LOOKING AT WAYS THAT WE CAN BOTH ADDRESS THE IMPACTS REALLY ON A BUSINESS BY BUSINESS -- OR TYPE OF BUSINESS FOCUS.

OBVIOUSLY CERTAIN BUSINESSES ARE GOING TO HAVE NEEDS, DIFFERENT NEEDS THAN OTHERS PRIMARILY. RESTAURANTS.

WE'RE WORKING TO ADDRESS THE RESTAURANTS.

THE STATES HAVE BEEN NIMBLE.  
QUICKLY ALLOWING CHANGES FOR  
DELIVERY -- TO HELP ADDRESS SOME  
OF THE SHORTFALLS.

COUNCILLORS FLYNN, FLAHERTY AND  
I EVERYONE SIGNED ON AS A  
CO-SPONSOR, LOOKING AT WAYS TO  
ADDRESS THE THIRD PARTY  
DELIVERIES.

SO THERE'S THINGS THAT WE CAN DO  
NOW OTHER BUSINESSES SINCE BEING  
SHUTTERED, MANY OF THEM WILL  
HAVE DIFFICULTY.

IF NOT, IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO  
REOPEN.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

WHAT SUPPORTS ARE AVAILABLE.

HOW CAN WE ADDRESS IT, HOW CAN  
WE DO WITH A CRUSHING

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BEFORE --

SEVERAL MONTHS AGO THE

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN BOSTON WAS

UNDER 2% OR SOME INCREDIBLY LOW  
NUMBER.

THIS IS OBVIOUSLY GOING TO GROW  
BY LEAPS AND BOUNDS.

SO THE FOCUS OF MY QUESTIONS

JUST GENERALLY ARE WHAT AND HOW

ARE WE GOING TO APPROACH OUR

ECONOMIC RECOVERY ON OUR SMALL

BUSINESSES, OUR LARGER

BUSINESSES AND SORT OF

UNEMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR

FOLKS IN TRAINING GOING FORWARD.

THANKS VERY MUCH.

>> THANK YOU SO MUCH, COUNCILLOR  
O'MALLEY.

I'LL AYE NOW ASK MY QUESTIONS.

I UNDERSTAND THE BOSTON

RESIDENTS TECH ENHANCEMENTS THAT

WERE MADE LAST YEAR, MENTIONED

IN THE OEB DETAILED DOCUMENT.

JUST TO KNOW HOW THAT MIGHT

SHIFT OUR ABILITY TO FOLLOW UP

ON THAT POLICY.

I'M REGRETFUL THAT I'LL MISS

THIS AFTERNOON'S HEARING ON THAT

SUBJECT.

I THINK THAT WE'RE GOING INTO A

YEAR WHERE IT WILL BE MORE

IMPORTANT THAN EVER TO MAKE SURE

IF WE WANT TO TALK ABOUT AN

EQUITABLE RECOVERY, PROJECTS IN

THE CITY ARE ABIDING BY THAT

POLICY AND INTERESTING IN HOW THE TECH ENHANCEMENTS WILL HELP US ON THAT.

UNDERSTANDING THE DEPARTMENT'S OVERSIGHT OF CASINOS AND WHAT RESOURCES ARE DEDICATED TO THAT. THAT IS SOMEBODY THAT HAS BEEN ADDED IN THE LAST FEW YEARS. I'M NOT TOTALLY CLEAR ON WHAT OUR INTERFACE WITH THE CASINO EFFORT IS.

COUNCILLOR MEJIA MENTIONED THE RFP RELATED TO REAL INVESTMENTS IN OUR MAIN STREETS TO PREPARE FOR HOSTING THIS MAIN STREETS CONVENTION IN 2021, WHICH WE HOPE WE'LL BE BACK HOSTING CONVENTIONS BY 2021.

SEEMS TO ME WHERE THAT ISSUED RFP WAS ABOUT SHOWCASE AGO GREAT MAIN STREETS PROGRAM AND ORDINARY TIME, IT SEEMS LIKE NOW THE QUESTION WILL BE WHAT CAN WE BOSTON DO TO BE A LEADER AND MODEL IN REVITALIING OUR MAIN STREETS AFTER COVID-19.

I WASN'T CLEAR IF AN RPF WAS ISSUED AND IF THERE'S A WAY TO REFRAME IT AND MAKE SURE THAT WE'RE MEETING THE MOMENT WE'RE IN THERE AND THINKING ABOUT HOW HOSTING THAT CONFERENCE CAN BE ABOUT RECOVERY FOR OUR LOCAL MAIN STREETS.

I'M INTERESTED COUNCILLOR MEJIA MENTIONED THE CHALLENGE THAT EOD TALKED ABOUT.

SEEM LIKE MOBILE ENTERPRISES WILL BE MORE IMPORTANT NOW AS WE WANT TO DO MORE BUSINESS OUTSIDE FOR THE SHORT TO MEDIUM TERM. SO ALSO I THINK THE REALITY THAT UNFORTUNATELY BECAUSE OF THE CHANGE IN THE UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION AS COUNCILLOR O'MALLEY REFERENCED, THERE'S A LOT OF TALENTED PEOPLE RIGHT NOW LOOKING FOR WORK.

THE QUESTION IS CAN THE CITY TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE BAD SIDE OF THIS CRISIS TO GET SOME GREAT TECHNICAL SUPPORT CAPACITY IN WORKING AT EOD.

THAT WOULD MAKE SENSE IF THEY'VE

HAD A CHALLENGE WITH HIRING FOR THAT.

SIMILARLY, I'M INTERESTED IN THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAMS, HOW WE CAN REALLY SCALE THAT UP, HOW THEY ARE SCALING IT UP.

THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THE LAST COUPLE MONTHS HELPING RESTAURANTS MOVE TO TAKE-OUT, HELPING PEOPLE WITH PPE APPLICATION AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL.

JUST SORT OF, YOU KNOW, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE DOESN'T SOLVE ALL PROBLEMS.

SOMETIMES YOU'RE FACING AN IMPOSSIBLE BUSINESS SITUATION. BUT IT DOES SEEM LIKE EVERY PROBLEM THAT CAN BE SOLVED, WE SHOULD TRY TO DO THAT.

I'M INTERESTING IN HOW WE RAMP THE PROGRAM THAT WE HAVE EXISTING.

IN GENERAL, THERE'S A REFERENCE IN THE OED'S RESPONSE TO OUR COUNCIL QUESTIONS THAT SAYS OBVIOUSLY YOU CAN ALWAYS USE MORE PERSONNEL RESOURCES BUT A TIME YOU HAVE TO DO MORE WITH LESS.

IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IS A PLACE WHERE BECAUSE OF THE MULTIPLIER EFFECT REALLY EFFECTIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT LIKE WE SHOULD AND THIS REALLY CONNECT TO COUNCILLOR ARROYO'S QUESTION, WE SHOULD BE SEEING STAFF GROWTH IN EOD FOR THE YEAR AHEAD.

I RECOGNIZE THAT THE BUDGET, ALTHOUGH IT WAS TWEAKED AFTER THIS EMERGENCY EMERGED, WASN'T FULLY CHANGED IN RESPONSE TO THAT AND JUST -- IT SEEMS TO ME LIKE WE SHOULD BE -- BASED ON WHAT WE LEARNED THE LAST EIGHT WEEKS THINKING AND WHAT ARE THE REALLY HIGH IMPACTS HIRES THAT OED COULD BE MAKING RIGHT NOW THAT WOULD LIKE LET US RAMP UP OUR SUPPORT FOR THE YEAR AHEAD IN A WAY THAT COMES BACK AS A

CITY IN TERMS OF BUSINESS,  
VIBRANCY AND RECOVERY.  
SO I'D LIKE THE DEPARTMENT TO  
ADDRESS AND WITH THE SUPPORT OF  
THE BUDGET OFFICE ADDRESS THE  
QUESTION OF WHETHER THEY'RE LIKE  
LOOKING TO MAKE ADJUSTMENT  
UPWARDS ON THAT FRONT.  
RECOGNIZING THAT WE'RE NOT GOING  
TO BE LOOKING AT A RESUBMISSION  
WITH MORE MONEY IN THE BUDGET.  
SO ADJUSTMENTS UPWARDS HAVE TO  
BE PAID FOR SOMEWHERE.  
JUST SEEMS LIKE IF THERE'S ONE  
PLACE WHERE WE NEED TO BE MAKING  
SURE WE'VE GOT ADEQUATE SUPPORT  
RESOURCES IN ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT.  
AND THEN I THINK JUST IN GENERAL  
RELATED TO THAT, A QUESTION  
ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT EOD HAS  
ANALYZED THE LAST FEW YEARS OR  
HOW THEY THINK ABOUT WHAT THE  
HIGHEST IMPACT THINGS THAT THEY  
DO ARE.  
AND I SAY THAT BECAUSE, YOU  
KNOW, THERE'S A LOT OF THINGS  
THAT ARE NICE TO.  
HAVE IT'S NICE TO HELP AROUND  
THE EDGES ON VARIOUS THINGS.  
THERE'S THINGS THAT LIKE  
ACTUALLY ALLOW BUSINESS TO GO  
FORWARD THAT WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN  
ABLE TO GO FORWARD.  
I THINK THOSE -- IT'S THE  
HIGHEST IMPACT PLACES THAT WE  
NEED TO PUT OUR RESOURCES.  
I'M INTERESTED IN HOW MUCH THE  
DEPARTMENT HAS DONE ABOUT WHAT  
ARE THE PROGRAMS THAT IT HAS TO  
SEEM TO REALLY MOVE THE NEEDLE  
IN TERMS OF SMALL BUSINESS  
SUCCESS.  
WRAPPING THOSE UP, PARTICULARLY  
WITH OUR SMALL BUSINESSES,  
FAMILY OWNED BUSINESSES,  
WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES, ALL THE  
PEOPLE THAT WHEN TO SUCCEED, THE  
MONEY STAYS IN THE CITY AND PART  
OF OUR VITAL ECOSYSTEM HERE.  
MY LAST SET OF QUESTIONS IS  
REALLY ABOUT -- IT ABOUT, YOU  
KNOW, CONTRACTING CITYWIDE.  
IT JUST SEEMS AS THOUGH THAT IS

SOMETHING THAT I KNOW HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS AN IMPORTANT PRIORITY, IT'S SOMETHING THAT THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT HAS PROGRAMS DEVOTED TO.

FEELS LIKE A LOT OF OUR PROGRAMS FOR MAKING SURE OUR CONTRACTING BASE IS MORE DIVERSE BECAUSE OF THE PROCUREMENT LIKE LAW LIMITATIONS OF THE STATE AND FEDERAL LEVEL, THAT, YOU KNOW, IT'S A LONG-TERM TRAJECTORY. CAN WE BUILD A PIPELINE OVER FIVE YEARS, ET CETERA.

BUT WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A LOT OF BUSINESSES THAT WON'T SURVIVE IN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS.

THERE'S CERTAIN THINGS IN THE CITY.

I THINK ABOUT PROVIDING SHELTER. OR SOME OF THE STUFF ON THE BPS SIDE THAT WE WOULD HAVE SAID WE COULDN'T DO THEM ON THE TIMELINE AND WE FIGURE OUT HOW TO DO IT. SIMILARLY, FIGURING OUT HOW TO DRAMATICALLY DIVERSIFY THE CONTRACTING POOL THE CITY OF BOSTON IS PULLING FROM.

I KNOW IT'S BEEN A REAL SORT OF CHALLENGE FOR OUR DEPARTMENT AND SOMETHING THAT OED IS WORKING HARD ON.

WE HAVE TO APPROACH THIS MOMENT CRISIS THERE OR WE WILL HAVE AN UNEQUITABLE RECOVERY IN TERMS OF HOW CITY DOLLARS GET SPENT. THAT IS BECAUSE IF WE DON'T CHANGE WHAT WE'RE DOING.

SO I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM OED A STRATEGY ON THAT FRONT. HOW DO WE THROW THE KITCHEN SINK AT THIS.

TO ME THAT SEEMS LIKE SOMETHING THAT LIKE MIGHT INVOLVE ADDITIONAL STAFF CAPACITY.

SO THOSE ARE ALL OF MY QUESTIONS.

AND NOW WE'LL DO BACK UP TO THE TOP AND DO A SECOND ROUND.

SO COUNCILLOR FLAHERTY, IF YOU HAVE ANY FOLLOW UPS, YOU HAVE THE FLOOR.

COUNCILLOR FLAHERTY?

ALL RIGHT.

SEEING NONE, WE'LL JUMP HIM FOR NOW.

COUNCILLOR JANEY.

>> THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIR.

AND I GOT A LOT OF MY QUESTIONS OUT IN THE FIRST ROUND.

BUT I DID WANT TO GO DEEPER INTO THE SMALL BUSINESS FUND.

I KNOW WE'VE BEEN TALKING A LOT ABOUT THE BOSTON EQUITY FUND.

THE SMALL BUSINESS FUND AS IT RELATES TO CANNABIS.

SO NOT THE EQUITY FUND, BUT THE SMALL BUSINESS FUND RELEASED FOR COVID.

I'M INTERESTED IN UNDERSTANDING WHETHER CANNABIS BUSINESSES QUALIFIED FOR THOSE FUNDS, IF THEY QUALIFIED, HOW MANY APPLIED, HOW MANY -- HOW MUCH MONEY DID THEY GET, WHAT COULD THEY USE THAT MONEY FOR.

IF THAT -- IF THEY DID NOT QUALIFY FOR ANY OF THOSE FUNDS BECAUSE WE KNOW THAT MANY ARE OPEN THE HOOK FOR LOTS OF MONEY EVEN THOUGH THEY DON'T HAVE THEIR BUSINESSES OPEN AND RUNNING.

IF THEY DIDN'T QUALIFY AS WE'RE THINKING ABOUT NEW ROUNDS, I'D BE INTERESTED IN WHAT THE ADMINISTRATION PLANS ARE FOR CASTING THE NET A LITTLE WIDER TO ENINCLUDE SOME OF THOSE ENTREPRENEURS AS PART OF THE RECOVERY.

I'M ALSO VERY MUCH INTERESTED -- I KNOW WE'LL GET TO SOME OF THESE QUESTIONS IN A HEARING LATER THIS AFTERNOON.

BUT THERE'S A LOT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT QUESTIONS AS RELATES TO CONSTRUCTION AND WHAT IS HAPPENING THERE.

I'LL RESERVE THOSE QUESTIONS FOR THAT HEARING.

I AM INTERESTED IN MORE PROCUREMENT.

IT'S FRUSTRATING THAT WE HAVE TO CONTINUE TO HAVE THESE CONVERSATIONS.

I KNOW WE HAVE AN OPEN HEARING

ORDER TO LOOK BACK AT WHAT WE SPENT.

I'D LAKE TO SEE US DO BETTER ON THE FRONT END AND UNDERSTAND WHAT THE PLAN IS.

OVERALL, A DECREASE FOR OED.

BUT YOU KNOW, FROM WHAT I UNDERSTAND, THERE'S SUPPOSED TO BE A 40% INCREASE IN TERMS OF EQUITY INCLUSION FUNDS AND UNDERSTANDING HOW WE'RE GOING TO LEVERAGE THAT TO NOT ONLY DEAL WITH THE RECOVERY OF COVID BUT REALLY DEAL WITH THE PRE COVID INEQUITIES LIKE THE QUARTER MILLION WEALTH GAP IN THE CITY OF BOSTON.

THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIR.

>> THANK YOU SO MUCH, COUNCIL PRESIDENT JANEY.

NOW COUNCILLOR BREADON, ANY FOLLOW UPS?

>> I HAD ONE CONCERN.

THE DISAPPEARANCE OF SO MANY OF OUR SMALL DAY CARE PROVIDERS ACROSS THE CITY.

I FEEL THAT THIS IS AN AREA WHERE MANY OF THEM ARE IMMIGRANT-OWNED BUSINESSES AND THEY NEED SUPPORT AND ATTENTION TO SEE IF WE CAN BOLSTER THAT SECTOR.

RIGHT NOW IN THIS CRISIS, THEY ARE SOME OF OUR ESSENTIAL CHILD CARE PROVIDERS.

THE BIGGER DAY CARE PROVIDERS ARE ALL CLOSED BECAUSE THEY'RE TOO BIG.

SO I FEEL THAT THAT IS SOMETHING THAT NEEDS ATTENTION.

THANK YOU.

>> GREAT.

THANK YOU SO MUCH.

COUNCILLOR MEJIA.

>> CAN YOU HEAR ME?

>> YES.

>> THANK YOU.

I'M CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT WE'RE PLANNING TO DO TO SUPPORT BARBER SHOPS, THE NAIL SALONS, THE SMALLER TYPE OF LOCAL BUSINESSES THAT HAVE TRADITIONALLY THRIVED IN THEIR OWN RIGHT.

BUT NOW AS A RESULT OF COVID-19

HAVE HAD TO SHUT THEIR DOORS  
DOWN.

SOME OF THOSE BUSINESSES YOU  
TAKE OUT AND DRY SOMEBODY'S  
HAIR.

JUST TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT  
TYPE OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND  
SUPPORT AND FUNDING ARE WE GOING  
TO BE PUTTING ASIDE TO SUPPORT  
THESE BUSINESSES THAT -- AND IF  
THEY DO OPEN THEIR DOORS, YOU  
KNOW, WHAT TYPE OF TECHNICAL  
ASSISTANCE WILL THEY RECEIVE AND  
DO IT IN A WAY THAT IS SAFE.

SO THINKING ABOUT THAT PLANNING.  
I'M CURIOUS ABOUT THAT.

I'M ALSO CURIOUS ABOUT, YOU  
KNOW, THE CAPACITY AND THE  
STAFFING OF THE OFFICE.

JUST WONDERING IF THEY HAVE  
ENOUGH STAFFING TO ADDRESS THE  
NEEDS OF 700,000 -- WE HAVE A  
BIG CITY.

WE HAVE A LOT OF BUSINESSES.  
I JUST DON'T KNOW WHETHER OR NOT  
THEY HAVE THE CAPACITY TO BE  
ABLE TO, YOU KNOW, GIVEN THE  
NEED AT THIS POINT, WHETHER OR  
NOT THEY'RE FULLY STAFFED TO DO  
SO.

I'M ALSO JUST CURIOUS ABOUT  
KNOWING THAT WE HAD A LOT OF  
ISSUES AROUND LANGUAGE ACCESS  
DURING THE RELIEF FUND  
APPLICATION PROCESS, JUST REALLY  
CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT LESSONS THAT  
THEY LEARNED AS A RESULT OF  
COVID-19 AND HOW THEY ADJUST TO  
RIGHT THOSE WRONGS IN TERMS OF  
OUTREACH AND ACCESS AND ALL THAT  
GOOD STUFF.

SO DEFINITELY HAVE THEIR WORK  
CUT OUT.

SO THE MORE WE CAN BETTER  
UNDERSTAND WHERE THE GAPS ARE  
AND THEIR FINANCIAL NEEDS THE  
BETTER WE CAN SUPPORT THEM.  
SO TO COME TO THE TABLE AND BE  
CLEAR ABOUT WHERE THOSE GAPS ARE  
WILL BE REALLY HELPFUL TO US.

>> GREAT.

THANK YOU SO MUCH, COUNCILLOR  
MEJIA.

COUNCILLOR ESSAIBI-GEORGE.

>> THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIR.  
I STEPPED AWAY FOR A SECOND.  
SO I DON'T THINK ANYONE ASKED  
ABOUT THE OFFICE OF TOURISM.  
ALTHOUGH WE ARE IN THE MIDST OF  
GLOBAL TRAVEL SHUT DOWN, I DO  
RECOGNIZE THAT BOSTON IS A HUGE  
DESTINATION FOR LOTS OF VISITS,  
ESPECIALLY IN THE WARMER MONTHS  
AND INTO THE FALL.  
SO CERTAINLY CURIOUS ABOUT THE  
IMPACT THIS PANDEMIC HAS HAD ON  
TOURISM AND WHAT THAT MEANS FOR  
RECEIPTS AND CERTAINLY SALES TAX  
AND ALL THAT FOR THE STATE AND  
FOR THE CITY.  
SO CURIOUS ABOUT THE WORK AND  
THE PLANNING THAT NEEDS TO GO  
FORWARD TO MAKE SURE THAT WE CAN  
REBUILD THAT INDUSTRY, REBUILD  
OUR -- REBUILD OPPORTUNITIES FOR  
TRAVEL TO BOSTON AND THE TOURISM  
INDUSTRY WITH THE UNCERTAINTY OF  
OUR COLLEGES, FOR THE FALL AND  
THE IMPACT THAT NOT HAVING THOSE  
COLLEGES MAY BE HAPPENING IN  
PERSON, WHAT IMPACTS DOES THAT  
HAVE.  
WE CERTAINLY KNOW WHAT THE LACK  
OF GRADUATIONS THAT IMPACT ALL  
OF OUR HOTELS AND A LOT OF OUR  
LOCAL ECONOMIES.  
BUT AS WE WORK TO REBUILD ALONG  
THE LINES OF THE CONVERSATION  
AROUND AN EQUITABLE REBUILDING  
ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS  
PANDEMIC, WE SHOULD ALSO HAVE --  
THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE  
SURE THAT WE'RE REBUILDING OUR  
TOURISM INDUSTRY WITH THAT IN  
MIND AS WELL.  
THIS IS NOT JUST ABOUT THE  
DOWNTOWN CORRIDOR OR SORT OF THE  
TYPICAL TOURISM HOT SPOTS BUT  
MAKING SURE THAT THIS IS PART OF  
A LARGER VISION FOR OUR CITY.  
THE TOURISM IN GENERAL, WHERE  
ARE WE?  
WHERE ARE WE GOING?  
WHAT ARE THE PLANS THAT WE CAN  
PUT IN PLACE FOR THAT AND HOW  
CAN WE MAKE SURE THAT ALL OF OUR  
COMMUNITIES ARE SEEING A PIECE  
OF THAT REBUILD.

I'M LOOKING AT THE REST OF MY NOTES HERE AS THEY'RE COVID SPECIFIC.

I'M TRYING TO BE MINDFUL THAT OUR QUESTIONS ARE CERTAINLY -- OUR BUDGET IS IMPACTED BY THE PANDEMIC AND OUR QUESTIONS ARE LEANING THAT WAY.

BUT THERE IS -- I THINK THERE'S NEEDS TO MAINTAIN A FOCUS FOR US AND A FOCUS FOR THE DEPARTMENT ABOUT CONTINUING OPERATIONS IN A NONCORONA SPECIFIC WAY.

EVENTUALLY WE'LL BE ON THE OTHER SIDE.

IT WILL CHANGE PRACTICE, CHANGE BUSINESS AND CHANGE THE ECONOMY, THE LOCAL ECONOMY OF BOSTON AND THE LOCAL ECONOMY OF OUR COMMUNITIES.

SO THE REST OF THE WORK NEEDS TO HAPPEN.

I DON'T KNOW IF ANYONE ASKED SPECIFICALLY ABOUT WHAT OUR INITIAL -- THE INITIAL RESPONSES TO RESTAURANTS THAT ARE NOW PERMITTED TO SERVE AND WHAT THAT MEANS AND WHAT THAT MAY MEAN FOR THEM.

JUST, YOU KNOW, AS THE GOVERNOR HAS DONE, THIS REOPENING TASK FORCE, I'M WONDERING WHAT THE EFFORTS ARE.

I THINK THIS LENDS ITSELF TO COUNCILLOR FLAHERTY'S QUESTION AT THE BEGINNING WHAT ARE WE DOING AS A CITY, WHAT OUR TASK FORCE LOOKS LIKE OR THE REOPENING THE CITY ESPECIALLY AROUND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. YOU KNOW COUNCILLOR ARROYO AND I HAVE CALLED FOR A HEARING AROUND THE RETURN TO SCHOOL.

BUT WHAT HAVE THE RETURN TO BUSINESS LOOK LOOK FOR OUR CITY AND WHAT IS THAT EFFORT UNDERWAY.

THAT'S IT FOR ME.

THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIR.

>> GREAT.

THANK YOU, COUNCILLOR  
ESSAIBI-GEORGE.

COUNCILLOR FLYNN.

>> THANK YOU, COUNCILLOR BOK, OR

THE GIVING ME ANOTHER  
OPPORTUNITY.

AS RELATES TO COUNCILLOR  
ESSAIBI-GEORGE'S COMMENTS AND  
QUESTIONS, I ALSO WANTED TO TALK  
A LITTLE ABOUT TOURISM, BUT  
SPECIFICALLY, YOU KNOW, WHAT ARE  
WE DOING TO HELP THE HOTEL  
OPERATORS AND THE OWNERS AS  
WELL.

I ALSO WANTED TO MAKE SURE THAT  
DURING THESE DIFFICULT ECONOMIC  
TIMES IN THE HOTEL INDUSTRY THAT  
WE'RE MINDFUL OF THE FACT THAT  
THESE ARE GOOD JOBS FOR MANY  
BOSTON RESIDENTS AND THE HOTELS,  
THE RESTAURANTS.

LOCAL 26 HIRES A -- THEY HAVE A  
LOT OF WOMEN, A LOT OF WOMEN  
FROM COMMUNITIES OF COLOR.  
THEY WORK IN THE HOTELS AND DO  
AN EXCELLENT JOB.

THEY'RE VERY PROFESSIONAL AND  
HARD WORKING.

I WOULD NOT WANT TO SEE US  
BECAUSE THERE'S AN ECONOMIC  
DOWNTURN, I WOULDN'T WANT TO SEE  
US KIND OF CONTRACTING OUT A LOT  
OF THE SERVICES THAT ONCE WERE  
GOOD PAYING JOBS FOR WORKERS AND  
NOW WE'RE CONTRACTING IT OUT.

SO I THINK IT'S STILL CRITICAL  
THAT WE CONTINUE TO WORK WITH  
THE HOTELS IN THE CITY AND THE  
WORK FORCE AS WELL.

THEY REALLY REPRESENT BOSTON  
WELL AS THE HOTEL WORKERS AND  
THE WORKERS IN OUR RESTAURANTS  
ALSO.

THE OTHER ONE I WANTED TO ASKED  
ABOUT COUNCILLOR BOK, IS MAYBE  
GETTING AN UPDATE ON THE BCEC  
AND SEEING HOW TOURISM IS GOING  
AS A RESULT OF WHAT THEY'RE  
SEEING IN TERMS OF BOOKING IN  
THE CONVENTION CENTER.

WHAT SHORT TERM AND LONG-TERM  
ADJUSTMENTS THEY'RE MAKING OR  
WHAT THEY'RE SAYING OR HEARING  
FROM POTENTIAL COMPANIES THAT  
WANT TO RENT THE FACILITY.

I'M ALSO INTERESTED IN BECAUSE I  
REPRESENT LIKE YOU DO,  
COUNCILLOR BOK, THE HEINZ

CONVENTION CENTER.

I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT THE STATUS IS OF THE POTENTIAL SALE OF THE HEINZ CONVENTION CENTER.

BECAUSE THAT CERTAINLY HAS A MAJOR ECONOMIC IMPACT ON THE CITY OF BOSTON AND ESPECIALLY THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN THE BACK BAY AREA AS WELL.

THE DOWNTOWN AREA.

IT MAY ALSO HIRE A LOT OF LOCAL 26 WORKERS IN AND AROUND THAT AREA OF BOSTON.

SO I WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT THAT WORK FORCE THAT DOES AN EXCEPTIONAL JOB FOR OUR CITY AND OUR HOTELS, YOU KNOW, WE DO EVERYTHING THAT WE CAN FOR THOSE WORKERS.

BECAUSE THOSE ARE EXCELLENT JOBS.

WE NEED TO KEEP THOSE JOBS HERE IN THE CITY.

AND MY FINAL POINT IS, I ALSO HAVE A LOT OF COMPANIES IN MY DISTRICT IN THE SEAFOOD INDUSTRY.

SO I'D LIKE TO GET A LITTLE MORE INFORMATION ON WHAT THE IMPACT IS, ECONOMIC IMPACT IS ON THE SEAFOOD INDUSTRY IN AN AROUND THE SOUTH BOSTON WATER FRONT AREA, CHINA TOWN AREA HAS SOME SEAFOOD COMPANIES, THE SOUTH END.

OTHER AREAS OF THE CITY ALSO DOES AS WELL.

SO I'D LIKE TO TAKE A LOOK AT SOME OF THOSE ISSUES.

BUT THANK YOU, COUNCILLOR BOK, FOR GIVING ME THE SECOND OPPORTUNITY TO ASK QUESTIONS.

I APPRECIATE IT.

>> THANK YOU, COUNCILLOR FLYNN. I VERY MUCH SHARE YOUR CONCERN ABOUT THE CONVENTION CENTER.

COUNCILLOR O'MALLEY, MY FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS?

OKAY.

ALL RIGHT.

SEEING NONE, I'LL JUST ADD MY -- I'LL COME BACK.

DON'T WORRY.

I'LL JUST ADD MY ADDITIONAL

QUESTIONS, WHICH WERE PROVOKED BY COUNCILLOR FLYNN.

I AGREE.

WE NEED TO THINK ABOUT WITH THINGS LIKE HOTELS IF WE EXPECT TO SEE A LONG-TERM STOPPAGE OF BUSINESS AS USUAL, THAT'S JUST SUCH A CRITICAL WORK FORCE IN OUR CITY.

SO THINKING ABOUT THINGS LIKE -- I THINK WE SHOULD BE LOOKING INTO HOTELS AS LIKE POTENTIAL ISOLATION LOCATIONS FOR PEOPLE WHO FIND OUT THAT THEY'RE COVID POSITIVE AND THEY LIVE WITH THEIR FAMILIES AND THEY DON'T NEED HOSPITALIZATION BUT THEY WOULD BE SAFER FOR EVERYBODY IN THEIR HOUSEHOLD IF THEY HAD SOMEWHERE ELSE TO STAY FOR TWO WEEKS, A PRACTICE THAT HAS BEEN DONE SUCCESSFULLY ALL OVER -- IN OTHER COUNTRIES, WITH THIS CRISIS, PAST CRISES.

THE OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO PAY OUR HOTEL WORKERS TO STAFF THAT KIND OF A CONTEXT WITH ALL THE RIGHT SAFETY PRECAUTIONS IS SOMETHING THAT WE SHOULD BE LOOKING INTO.

THAT'S THE TYPE OF THING THAT IN SOME PLACES THAT WE -- GOVERNMENTS HAVE PROVIDED STIPENDS TO THE PEOPLE STAYING IN THOSE TEMPORARY ISOLATION HOTELS BECAUSE THE REALITY IS, PUBLIC HEALTH IS THE FACT THAT ALL OF OUR FATES ARE TIED TOGETHER.

SO WHEN PEOPLE GET SICK, IT'S ALL OF OUR PROBLEMS.

WE NEED TO THINK ABOUT A SUPPORT SYSTEM THAT WILL LET US REOPEN IN A WAY THAT IS SAFE FOR EVERYBODY CONCERNED.

SO THINKING ABOUT HOW DOES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TIE IN WITH THOSE PLANS IS IMPORTANT.

I AGREE WITH COUNCILLOR FLYNN.

WE NEED TO LOOK OUT FOR OUR HOTEL AND CONVENTION WORKERS IN THIS CRISIS.

WE'LL NEED THEIR WORK ON THE OTHER SIDE AS WELL.

SO ALL RIGHT.  
THAT'S FOR ME.  
I SEE WE'RE GOING -- I SEE YOUR  
HAND RAISED, COUNCILLOR MEJIA.  
I'M GOING TO GO BACK THROUGH  
PEOPLE AGAIN IN THE ORDER.  
SO I'LL JUST GO UP TO TALK TO  
COUNCILLOR JANEY.  
COUNCILLOR JANEY?  
>> THANK YOU.  
THANK YOU SO MUCH.  
JUST A COUPLE OF FOLLOW UPS.  
REALLY IMPORTANT DISCUSSION.  
I APPRECIATE IT.  
THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIR.  
AS PRESIDENT OF THIS BODY, I'M  
PROUD OF THE WORK THAT WE'RE  
DOING AS A BODY.  
I KNOW THE SHUT DOWN WAS TOUGH  
ON FOLKS, BUT I'M JUST -- I HAD  
A VERY STRONG REACTION TO A  
LONGING FOR NORMAL OPERATION  
GIVEN THE NORMAL OPERATIONS ARE  
STEEPED IN EQUITY.  
SO I WANT TO BE MINDFUL AS WE  
MOVE FORWARD, WE HAVE TO DO SO  
ALWAYS WITH A LENS TOWARDS  
EQUITY.  
SO EVEN IF IT'S NOT COVID  
SPECIFIC, I WANT TO MAKE SURE  
THAT WE'RE LEADING WITH THAT  
EQUITY LENS.  
TO THAT POINT, I'D BE REALLY  
INTERESTED IN UNDERSTANDING BY  
LOOKING AT DIFFERENT ETHNIC  
GROUPS IN OUR CITY AND  
UNDERSTANDING WHAT PERCENTAGES  
THAT THEY MAKE UP IN TERMS OF  
DIFFERENT INDUSTRIES SO FOR  
EXAMPLE, IF WE LOOKED AT BLACK  
RESIDENTS IN BOSTON WHO ARE  
ENTREPRENEURS, SMALL BUSINESS  
OWNERS, X PERCENT ARE IN THE  
BARBER SHOP BUSINESS, ET CETERA.  
I'D LIKE TO UNDERSTAND THAT BY  
EACH ETHNIC GROUP.  
I THINK THERE WAS A POINT  
EARLIER, WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE IN  
MY DISTRICT, A LARGE SHARE OF  
THE BUSINESSES ARE THOSE TYPES  
OF BUSINESSES AND IF THOSE ARE  
CLOSED BECAUSE THEY'RE  
NONESSENTIAL THAT IS A DOUBLE  
HIT FOR FOLKS IN MY DISTRICT.

THE OTHER PIECE TO THAT IS HOW ESSENTIAL THOSE BUSINESSES ARE AND PROVIDING SOCIAL SUPPORT IN A COMMUNITY.

SO A BARBER SHOP AND A HAIR SALON ARE SO ESSENTIAL IN TERMS OF HOW PEOPLE CONNECT IN COMMUNITY, HOW THEY SHARE INFORMATION IN COMMUNITY AND TO SEE THIS DISRUPTION IN THAT IS REALLY WORRISOME.

I'M NOT SURE WHAT OED CAN DO ABOUT THE DISRUPTION IN THAT SOCIAL FABRIC, BUT I'M MINDFUL THAT A LARGE SHARE OF THE BUSINESSES MY DISTRICT MAY BE DISPROPORTIONATELY THOSE TYPES OF BUSINESSES AND THEREFORE PEOPLE ARE HURTING BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO STAY OPEN THE WAY THAT OTHER BUSINESSES HAVE STAYED OPEN.

SO I'D LIKE A DEEPER DIVE UNDERSTANDING FOR THIS PARTICULAR GROUP WHAT THEIR SHARE IS AND WHAT DIFFERENT INDUSTRIES SO WE CAN HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF HOW COVID-19 HAS IMPACTED THOSE BUSINESSES AND WHAT WE NEED TO DO AS PART OF OUR RECOVERY MOVING FORWARD.

THANKS FOR THE DISCUSSION. LOOKING FORWARD TO BUILDING WITH EACH OF YOU.

PROUD OF THE WORK WE'RE DOING TOGETHER.

THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU.

COUNCILLOR MEJIA, YOU HAVE THE

FLORIDA.

>> OKAY.

I JUST -- I HAVE A QUICK QUESTION THAT I'M CURIOUS ABOUT. I'M NOT SURE THIS IS -- HOW THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WORK TOWARDS THIS.

I'M CURIOUS ABOUT TWO THINGS. WHAT ROLE DOES THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAY IN FIGURING OUT WAYS TO BE MORE COLLABORATIVE ACROSS DIFFERENT CITY DEPARTMENTS.

FOR EXAMPLE, I'M LOOKING AT ARTS  
AND CULTURE.

WHAT WAYS ARE THEY NOT ONLY  
SUPPORTING SMALL ARTISTS BUT  
WHAT WAYS CAN THEY DISPLAY THEIR  
ART.

IS THERE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THAT  
TYPE OF ASSISTANCE OF  
PARTNERSHIPS TO HELP BOOST LOCAL  
ARTISTS.

THEN, I'M CURIOUS ABOUT -- I'VE  
LEARNED A LOT IN THE LAST 100  
SOMETHING DAYS ON THIS JOB.  
YOU KNOW, I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE  
SOMETHING AS SIMPLE IF WE'RE NOT  
SERVING CULTURAL CREWS, WHY NOT  
LOCAL RESTAURANTS IN THE CITY OF  
BOSTON TO PROVIDE MEALS TO  
STUDENTS OR HAVE THE FOOD THAT  
WOULD PROVIDING BOSTON PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS BE MORE LOCAL.  
FROM WHAT I UNDERSTAND, THE  
CONTRACT IS GIVEN TO THIS  
COMPANY CALLED REVOLUTION.

I GUESS THE FOOD COMES FROM I  
DON'T KNOW WHERE.

I'M CURIOUS AS TO WHAT  
OPPORTUNITIES EXIST TO BREAK UP  
SOME OF THE FOOD VENDOR  
CONTRACTS SO THAT WE'RE  
SUPPORTING SMALLER BUSINESSES  
THE CITY OF BOSTON.

WHERE DOES THAT STAND, WHAT ARE  
THE BARRIERS TO BEING ABLE TO  
MAKE THAT HAPPEN IN A REALLY --  
PUSHING TO FIGURE THAT OUT.

AND THEN IN THAT SAME SPIRIT,  
YOU KNOW, BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
HAS THE OFFICE OF PARTNERSHIPS.  
OFTENTIMES A LOT OF THE  
CONTRACTS ARE GIVEN, GIVEN TO  
THE BIG TICKET ITEM NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATIONS FOR AFTER SCHOOL  
PROGRAMMING.

I'M CURIOUS WHAT OPPORTUNITIES  
THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT EXISTS TO SUPPORT  
SMALLER ENTREPRENEURS TO BE ABLE  
TO PROVIDE THOSE SERVICES AS  
WELL.

SO WHETHER YOU'RE DOING  
TAE KWON DO, WHETHER YOU'RE  
TEACHING PEOPLE ABOUT YOGA,

THERE'S A LOT OF DIDN'T THINGS  
THAT ENTREPRENEURS ARE DOING IN  
THE CITY OF BOSTON THAT WEIGH  
MIGHT SUPPORTS THESE  
NONTRADITIONAL BUSINESSES, IF  
YOU WILL.

MANY OF WHICH ARE 1099 TO BE  
ABLE TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO THE  
CITY OF BOSTON.

LAST THING THAT I'D LIKE -- I  
DON'T KNOW WHO IS TAKING NOTES  
FOR YOUR TEAM, BUT I'M NOT -- I  
HOPE YOU ARE.

I WANT TO SEE THESE QUESTIONS  
ASKED.

IF NOT, I'LL ASK THEM IN THE  
HEARING.

THE OTHER QUESTION THAT I'M  
REALLY CURIOUS ABOUT IS, YOU  
KNOW, WE ALWAYS TALK ABOUT HOW  
THE CITY OF BOSTON IS HELPING  
SMALL BUSINESSES.

BUT I'D LOVE TO SEE A REPORT  
CARD, YOU KNOW.

I THINK IT WAS PRESIDENT COUNCIL  
JANEY TALKED ABOUT HOW MUCH -- I  
WOULD LOVE TO SEE IT IN THE  
DASHBOARD, THE SCOPE OF WORK  
COMING OUT OF THAT DEPARTMENT.

I KEEP GOING BACK TO THE  
CAPACITY AND THE RESOURCES THAT  
THEY NEED TO DO THESE THINGS.

I THINK THAT WE WANT TO MANAGE  
EXPECTATIONS BUT I ALSO THINK  
IT'S IMPORTANT TO KNOW WHERE THE  
SHORTFALLS ARE.

THE LAST PIECE IS THAT IN TERMS  
OF ASSESSMENT AND SURVEYS, JUST  
CURIOUS WHO IS AT THE TABLE AND  
FORMING OUR THINKING ABOUT WHAT  
ARE THE NEEDS OF SMALL  
BUSINESSES.

YOU KNOW, ASIDE FROM CONDUCTING  
A SURVEY, MAYBE PERHAPS  
COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS, I'M  
WONDERING HOW MUCH OF COMMUNITY  
VOICE IS AT PLAY WHEN IT COMES  
TO DESIGNING THE SUPPORT  
SERVICES THAT THEY'RE PROVIDING  
TO THE CITY OF BOSTON.

I'M SORRY.

THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU SO MUCH, COUNCILLOR  
MEJIA, FOR ALL OF THOSE

QUESTIONS.

YES, JUST TO CLARIFY FOR FOLKS,  
OUR AMAZING CENTRAL STAFF BUDGET  
TEAM, MICHELLE, JANE ARE TAKING  
NOTES ON ALL THE QUESTIONS THAT  
GET ASKED.

SO YOU DON'T SEE MY TYPING THEM  
DOWN, OTHER FOLKS ARE DOING  
THAT.

WE'LL CIRCULATE THE LIST OF ALL  
THE QUESTIONS SENT OVER TO  
ADMINISTRATION.

>> THANK YOU.

>> THEY'RE GETTING FORWARDED AND  
ASKED.

>> I DIDN'T SEE YOUR PEN MOVING.

>> THANK GOODNESS THERE'S A  
TEAM.

GRATEFUL FOR THEIR WORK.

>> THANK YOU TO THE STAFF.

SHOUT OUT TO THEM.

THEY MAKE THINGS HAPPEN EVERY  
DAY.

>> THANK YOU.

COUNCILLOR ESSAIBI-GEORGE.

>> THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIR.

I DO APPRECIATE YOUR WORK ON  
THIS.

I DON'T HAVE ANY OTHER  
QUESTIONS.

I WILL SUBMIT MY NOTES WITH  
QUESTIONS TO YOU.

THE PRACTICE THAT YOU DEVELOPED  
SORT OF AN EXTENSION OR A  
RESPONSE TO COUNCILLOR MEJIA'S  
QUESTIONS ABOUT THE QUESTIONS  
IS -- YOU'VE REITERATED A NUMBER  
OF TIMES AND IT'S IMPORTANT TO  
NOTE AGAIN THAT WE'RE FREE AND  
SHOULD SUBMIT QUESTIONS TO  
CENTRAL STAFF THAT HAVE BEEN  
ASKED IN THESE SITUATIONS AND IF  
WE WANT TO PRETTY THEM UP A  
LITTLE BIT.

THANKS FOR THE EFFORT AND THE  
WORK OF CENTRAL STAFF DURING  
THIS TIME.

>> THANK YOU.

>> COUNCILLOR MATT O'MALLEY, ANY  
REMAINING QUESTIONS?

ALL RIGHT.

SEEING NONE, I'LL GIVE ONE MORE  
CHANCE OF ANY OF MY COLLEAGUES  
WANT TO ASK ANOTHER QUESTION,

RAISE YOUR BLUE HAND.  
TURN ON YOUR SCREEN AND WAVE AT  
ME.  
OKAY.  
I GUESS MY ONE OTHER ONE THAT  
OCCURRED TO ME IS THAT I'M  
REALLY INTERESTED IN HOW WE CAN  
HELP OUR -- AS WE GET TO THE  
NICE WEATHER AND AS WE GET TO  
SOME KIND OF GRADUAL REOPENING,  
HOW CAN WE BE CREATIVE ABOUT  
USING OUTDOOR SPACE.  
SO ARE THERE STREETS WHERE WE  
CAN PERMIT PEOPLE TO EXTEND  
THEIR TABLES AND CHAIRS INTO THE  
STREET IN ORDER TO CREATE AN  
OPPORTUNITY TO SOCIAL DISTANCE.  
I THINK FROM A PUBLIC HEALTH  
PERSPECTIVE, WE'LL WANT TO  
ENCOURAGE MORE TRANSACTION TO  
HAPPEN OUTSIDE AND THINKING  
ABOUT HOW ARE WE CREATIVE SO OUR  
SMALL BUSINESSES CAN BENEFIT  
FROM THAT SORT OF THING.  
I THINK IT'S AN IMPORTANT  
COLLABORATION FOR THE OFFICE OF  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO PURSUE  
WITH THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT  
AND PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT  
COMMISSION.  
IT WILL BE INTERESTED TO KNOW IF  
THEY HAVE THOSE CONVERSATIONS  
AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO DO SO.  
THAT'S MY LAST THING.  
ANY FURTHER HANDS?  
SEEING NONE, I JUST WANT TO  
THANK EVERYONE FOR ATTENDING.  
THIS MEETING OF THE BOSTON CITY  
COUNCIL WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE  
IS ADJOURNED.  
THANK YOU.