



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

AGENDA SECTION	BUSINESS ITEMS
MEETING DATE	04/06/2026

ITEM:	2026 Outstanding Business of the Year Award.		
<i>Presenting Item:</i> CD Coordinator Emilie Voight			
DEPARTMENT:	Community Development	BY/DATE:	CD Coordinator 04/01/2026
CORE CITY STRATEGIES: <i>(please indicate areas that apply by adding an "X" in front of the selected text below)</i>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Community that Grows with Purpose and Equity		<input type="checkbox"/> Engaged, Effective and Forward-Thinking	
<input type="checkbox"/> High Quality Public Spaces		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resilient and Prosperous Economy	
<input type="checkbox"/> Safe, Accessible and Built for Everyone		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inclusive and Connected Community	

BACKGROUND

In November of 2022, the EDA approved the establishment of the Outstanding Business of the Year Award. This award recognizes local businesses for noteworthy accomplishments, contributions to the community, and significant community service efforts.

The award criteria include: being a long-standing business within the City of Columbia Heights and reaching a milestone year; completing a major business expansion, remodel, exterior renovations, landscaping improvements, or a relocation to a new facility within the City; implementing environmentally friendly or sustainability-related initiatives or improvements; making a major contribution or contributions to the community; and/or performing other accomplishments or contributions worthy of recognition. The EDA reserves the right to make no selection if the nominations do not meet the standard of recognition.

This year, the EDA received eleven nominations for the following eligible local businesses: Heights Coffee Bar (one nomination), Heights Theater (three nominations), Rail Werks Brewing Depot (six nominations), and VFW Post 230 (one nomination). Nominations were submitted by community members. The nomination forms have been included in the meeting packet. One nomination was received for a business located in Fridley; staff informed the nominator that this business was not eligible due to its location.

If selected as the 2026 Business of the Year, the winning business will be honored by the presentation of a plaque during a City Council meeting, by marketing of the achievement at City events and on City reader board signs, and by being spotlighted in a recognition article posted on the City's website and in its newsletter.

RECOMMENDED MOTION(S):
MOTION: Move to approve _____ as the 2026 Columbia Heights Business of the Year.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Packet of Nomination Forms