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MEMORANDUM

TO: EDA BOARD
FROM: JOSHUA TETZLAFF, CITY ADMINISTRATOR
SUBJECT: FUTURE EDA ENDEAVORS
DATE: JUNE 29, 2026

For the last few months, the EDA has been discussing the next projects that it wishes to advance. Some of the items the EDA has discussed include:

- Expansion of the industrial park
- Expansion of commercial areas through direct funding
- Building out industrial properties for sale/lease
- Purchasing the Mill property
- Purchasing downtown property to improve and then sell/lease

The last two items on the list of future endeavors as it sits now are to provide improvements funds to downtown businesses (or businesses across the City) and to provide assistance to daycares.

Providing funds for improvement of downtown businesses is something the EDA has done in the past. Through this program, the EDA could set parameters for how it wants to provide assistance, and then do so. This program can be self-funded or could also be done in collaboration with the State of Minnesota. A hurdle that was present in former improvement programs was that property owners had low participation rates, meaning that funds went unused. Through BR&E visits, staff have been told that there would be interest in restarting the improvement grant program, though that interest was from business owners. Again, it would be property owners who would need to take advantage of the program.

When the idea of daycare assistance was added to this list, it was a common and growing problem around the country. More and more, quality, affordable childcare is becoming more difficult to find, especially for children under the age of two because of State requirements for supervision and care. This becomes an EDA issue because families are forced to have one parent stay home with children instead of joining the workforce, which hurts workforce participation rates. If the EDA is interested, staff can investigate ways that EDA could help in alleviating the childcare deficit.