

## **Economic Development Policy Statement**

The Common Council of the City of Richland Center is dedicated to advancing economic development in alignment with the City of Richland Center's Comprehensive Plan, which outlines a strategic vision for sustainable growth, community vitality, and economic prosperity. We wholeheartedly support new development, redevelopment, and economic initiatives that enhance the quality of life, promote fiscal sustainability, and strengthen the economic base of our community while preserving its unique character in the heart of the Driftless Area.

To developers, entrepreneurs, and businesses, we extend an open invitation to invest in Richland Center, a city poised for growth with a supportive framework for economic progress. As outlined in the Comprehensive Plan, we prioritize streamlined permitting processes, collaboration with local stakeholders, and leveraging resources such as Tax Increment Financing (TIF) districts, business financing programs, and partnerships with organizations like the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) and the Small Business Development Center (SBDC). We encourage development in key areas, including the North Industrial Park, downtown revitalization projects, and mixed-use developments that align with the Future Land Use Map, fostering vibrant commercial, industrial, and residential growth.

To our residents, we reaffirm that economic development is a cornerstone of our agenda. Guided by the Comprehensive Plan's goals, we are committed to supporting the creation and retention of quality jobs, expanding the tax base, and enhancing infrastructure while protecting our natural resources, historic assets, and community identity. Our efforts focus on supporting key industries such as manufacturing, agriculture, healthcare, education, and tourism, as well as promoting downtown revitalization and sustainable development practices that ensure long-term prosperity for all.

The Common Council pledges to:

- a) Support projects that align with the Comprehensive Plan's objectives, including economic diversification, job creation, and sustainable land use practices.
- b) Facilitate development in strategic areas such as the North Industrial Park, with infrastructure-ready parcels, and downtown, through initiatives like tax incremental districts and hotel development opportunities.
- c) Foster partnerships with Richland County, the Greater Richland Area Chamber of Commerce, and regional entities to attract investment and resources.
- d) Engage the community through transparent decision-making and public participation, ensuring development reflects the shared vision outlined in the Comprehensive Plan.
- e) Promote environmentally responsible growth that balances economic progress with the preservation of Richland Center's scenic landscapes and cultural heritage.

Together, we will build a resilient, inclusive, and thriving economy that reflects the aspirations of the Comprehensive Plan. We invite developers, businesses, and residents to join us in creating a vibrant future for Richland Center, where opportunity and community pride flourish.

Adopted by the Common Council of the City of Richland Center on [Insert Date].

DRAFT