



# Community Development Department

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## MEMORANDUM

To: Economic Development Commission  
From: Emily Arteche, Director CD  
Date: April 17, 2024  
Subject: 2023 EDC Chair Requested Amendments to SMC

### BACKGROUND:

The Economic Development Commission has had a long-standing in progress effort to interview owners and directors of numerous key businesses in the community as part of the City of Snoqualmie Economic Development Commission Business Visitation Program, (see Attachment 1, Summary of Initial Interviews- October 18, 2017). A total of 14 businesses were originally selected for the initial interviews which included businesses in the downtown, Ridge and Business Park. Twelve questions were asked of these businesses as summarized below.

Table 1. Previous Business Visitation Questions, 2017

1. What aspects of Snoqualmie enticed to locate here?
2. How business friendly is the City?
3. What positive aspects are there of the City?
4. What negative aspects are there of the City?
5. What concerns do you have about the future of your business?
6. Do you have divisions of business outside the City?
7. Do you have plans to move?
8. What would help you make that decision?
9. Are there synergistic companies that could relocate to the City?
10. Do you have sufficient broadband?
11. What can the City do to help you?
12. What can the EDC assist you with?

### ANALYSIS:

The business visitation program was primarily the responsibility of each commissioner to schedule, meet and complete the business visitation questions listed above. A few attempts were made by Commissioners to interview remaining business in 2022, (see Attachment 2, Business Visitation Schedule). No business visitations were documented in the year 2023. Staff would like to redesign business visitations program to help facilitate the EDC Work Program. Additionally, Staff would like to prioritize corporate businesses visitations efforts especially of those within the existing business park follow by

other commercial areas. Corporate businesses listed on the Business Visitation Schedule include only 11 corporate businesses of which only a handful are located within the businesses park.

There is limited space for expansion of the business park. Information about the amount of spaced needed as well as the timing of when the businesses need expansion will allow the City to takes steps forward to keep businesses in the City.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommendation is to develop a quarterly EDC Roundtable with the City's major employment districts, starting with the business park, Ridge and Downtown Association regarding topics listed on the 2024 EDC Work program. These meetings would take place during regularly scheduled EDC meetings.

Staff would take the necessary steps for scheduling and inviting representatives from these districts to the Roundtables.

**NEXT STEPS:**

Discuss recommended new strategy of business visitations.