



Tamara Atkinson  
Workforce Solutions Capital Area Workforce Board  
6505 Airport Blvd., Ste. 101E  
Austin, TX 78758

June 27, 2018

Mayor Steve Adler  
Council Member Ora Houston  
Council Member Delia Garza  
Council Member Sabino Renteria  
Council Member Gregario Casar  
Council Member Ann Kitchen  
Council Member Jimmy Flannigan  
Council Member Leslie Pool  
Council Member Ellen Troxclair  
Council Member Kathie Tovo  
Council Member Alison Alter  
Austin City Hall  
301 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> St.  
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Mayor Adler and Members of the Austin City Council:

Workforce Solutions Capital Area is a non-profit organization that connects people to jobs. Our unique value proposition is to provide data-driven planning, oversight, and evaluation of the workforce system in Austin and Travis County. **I am happy to provide this letter speaking to the merits of the City of Austin's New Economic Development Policy.**

This mission of Workforce Solutions Capital Area is to lead the region's workforce development system in support of a world-class workforce. We believe that training and education aligned to the needs of local employers are the foundation of a competitive workforce. **Further, I believe that the components of the City of Austin's Economic Development Department and Global Business Expansion New Economic Development Policy support the ambitious workforce development efforts that we are leading on behalf of both job seekers and businesses in our region.**

6505 Airport Boulevard Suite 101-E Austin, TX 78752  
Phone: (512) 597-7100 Fax: (512) 719-4710 [www.wfscapitalarea.com](http://www.wfscapitalarea.com)

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Most notably, Workforce Solutions appreciates this new approach that:

1. Ensures policies that promote equitable prosperity, affordability, and are locally-focused;
2. Supports both large and small business, and a diversity of industries.
3. Encourages job creation focusing on middle-skill, hard-to-employ, low-income workers; and
4. Includes a portfolio approach to incentives that deliver a more balanced, diversified set of strategic outcomes.

Last year, our community launched its first-ever comprehensive workforce plan, entitled the **Master Community Workforce Plan, with the objective to move 10,000 individuals at or below two hundred percent of poverty into middle-skill jobs by the year 2021.** On June 14th City Council passed an ordinance adopting the Master Community Workforce Plan as an attachment to the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan. Our work together – Workforce Solutions and the City of Austin – is increasingly more important as Austin grapples with affordability and ensuring a high quality of life for all of our residents.

Of specific interest to Workforce Solutions within the New Economic Development Policy is the Business Expansion Program Portfolio. The components of these program guidelines align well with the Master Community Workforce Plan by incentivizing compensation for middle-skill workers, as well as those who are “hard-to-employ” and/or “economically disadvantaged.” Further, Workforce Solutions sees benefits to the business expansions that yield benefits to the community beyond the local tax base.

Finally, Workforce Solutions appreciates that businesses will be encouraged to work with the public workforce system and our network of community-based and education providers to find and hire local talent.

**Taken together, the well-thought out components of the City of Austin’s New Economic Development Policy create a much-needed policy platform for both supporting our local talent pipeline and business expansion. I am proud to partner with the City of Austin to promote this policy as it supports the Board’s broader mission and purpose.**

Sincerely,

Tamara Atkinson

Chief Executive Officer, Workforce Solutions Capital Area Workforce Board

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