

Handout 9/22/14 ope



September 22, 2014

Dear Community and Economic Development Leader,

I am honored to be encouraging you to attend and participate in an upcoming Development Roundtable. I am teaming up with the City of Olympia leadership to engage in a dynamic conversation about the opportunities for increasing economic development activities and vibrancy inside the City of Olympia. We have designed a roundtable format that will seek to bring out critical elements and issues that both the City and the EDC can use to promote and increase economic development and vibrancy to our region. I hope that you will join us.

To ensure that we plan appropriately, I am asking that you RSVP your attendance by Friday, September 26 at noon to Rachel Reischman at the EDC at [rreischman@thurstonedc.com](mailto:rreischman@thurstonedc.com) or 360-754-6320. If you have any questions and or concerns about this opportunity, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at [mcade@thurstonedc.com](mailto:mcade@thurstonedc.com).

Sincerely,

Michael Cade, Executive Director  
Thurston County Economic Development Council



Dear Community and Economic Development Leader,

Over the past year, the City of Olympia has been engaged in the process of understanding its economic development challenges and opportunities. The City engaged the economic development consulting firm ECONorthwest to prepare a report on economic conditions in our community and in our downtown. Those materials can be found on the City's web page under [Community Renewal Area](#). The **Investment Strategy: City of Olympia Opportunity Areas** report includes a recommendation that the City, "Convene a development roundtable (perhaps in conjunction with the Thurston County Economic Development Council) to discuss how to more effectively build predictability into the development of opportunity sites in order to build the confidence of investors and developers."

The City also asks for your help to move the City's development review process from a reactive model to a more proactive development model that includes meaningful and early neighborhood and stakeholder involvement and promotes high quality growth and commerce in the City. One of the key steps in that process is to involve the development community in the discussion about what our future should look like. The development community brings expertise in market understanding, building, site development and project feasibility that is vital to the community development process. The City seeks to tap into this expertise to help to inform its planning efforts.

I hope that you will join us in that process. We've invited a number of community leaders who have been involved in development projects within our community over the past few years. We hope that you will lend your voice to this ongoing conversation.

Sincerely,

Keith Stahley, Director

Community Planning and Development Department



## **City of Olympia Development Roundtable**

**Where:** Olympia City Hall – City Council Chambers 601E. 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue

**When:** Thursday October 2, 2014, 6:30 to 9:00

**What:** A facilitated discussion of economic development opportunities within the City of Olympia.

**RSVP:** Thurston County EDC [rreichman@thurstonedc.com](mailto:rreichman@thurstonedc.com)

**Other Things to Know:** This meeting will be open to the public, however, only the invitees will participate in the discussions. Light food and refreshments will be provided. It is the City of Olympia's hope that this will create opportunities for developing a continuing conversation between the City and those interested in helping to build our City's future.