

Memo

To: City Council
From: Bryan Myrkle, Community Development Director
Date: May 5, 2017
Re: Resolution of Support – Redevelopment Ready Communities Program

City Councilmembers will likely recall hearing me or City Manager Guetschow talk about our ongoing interest in the Redevelopment Ready Communities program offered by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. RRC is a set of best practices for economic development intended to modernize strategies, incorporate technology, promote redevelopment sites and make use of appropriate incentives. The idea is to make investing in our community as attractive, easy and predictable as possible.

Mr. Guetschow and I have both taken trainings on this program and strongly believe it would be a great benefit for Charlotte to incorporate as many of these strategies as possible. We have also been directly encouraged by large developers in the region to take the program and its practices seriously.

While we have advocated for this for some time, the MEDC is now making 'engagement' with the program a requirement for participation in many of their other grants and programs, such as accessing Community Development Block Grant dollars. The MEDC understands that getting certified as an RRC community is a very ambitious goal for smaller communities, and it doesn't look like they will require full certification for every community; but they will be requiring communities to 'engage' with the program and at least show regular progress toward meeting certification requirements.

The first steps are passing a resolution of support for the program (on your agenda Monday for a first reading) and completing self-evaluations to let the MEDC know where we stand.

The resolution is very simple and straightforward, as you will see.

With your agenda packet, I have included a RRC manual that you can use to get familiar with the requirements. It is very detailed and provides a good picture of what communities with modern economic development practices are doing, and what Charlotte would have to do to meet the standards.

I would like to encourage the City Council to approve the RRC Resolution of Support at its meeting this Monday evening.