



AGENDA

Economic Development Advisory Commission Regular Meeting

Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 6:00 PM

City Hall Cowles Council Chambers In-Person & Via Zoom Webinar

Homer City Hall

491 E. Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603
www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Zoom Webinar ID: 990 0366 1092 Password: 725933

<https://cityofhomer.zoom.us>
Dial: 346-248-7799 or 669-900-6833;
(Toll Free) 888-788-0099 or 877-853-5247

1. **CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, 6:00 P.M.**
2. **AGENDA APPROVAL**
3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA** (3 minute time limit)
4. **RECONSIDERATION**
5. **CONSENT AGENDA** (Items listed below are considered routine and non-controversial by the Commission and are approved in one motion. If a separate discussion is desired on an item, a Commissioner may request that item be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Agenda under New Business.)
 - 5.A. EDC Meeting Minute Approval **Page 3 - 8**
[November 1, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes](#)
6. **VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS** (10 minute time limit)
7. **STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS** (5 minute time limit)
 - 7.A. EDC Staff Report **Page 9**
[Agenda Item Report - EDC 23-003](#)
 - 7.B. Homer Marine Trades Association (HMTA) Report **Page 10 - 12**
[HMTA Meeting Minutes 11/8/2022](#)
[HMTA Agenda 1/4/2023](#)
8. **PUBLIC HEARING(S)**
9. **PENDING BUSINESS**
 - 9.A. Housing Report **Page 13**
[Agenda Item Report - EDC 23-002](#)
10. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - 10.A. Discussion of KPEDD Industry Outlook Forum & EDC Strategic Plan **Page 14 - 19**
[Agenda Item Report - EDC 23-001](#)
11. **INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**

- 11.A. Alaska's Economic Performance in National Context by the UA Center for Economic Development **Page 20 - 29**
[UAA Handout, November 2022](#)
- 11.B. Appointment of Gordon Pitzman to EDC **Page 30 - 34**
[EDC Pitzman Appointment Application & Materials, November 2022](#)
- 11.C. City of Homer Newsletter **Page 35 - 46**
[January 2023 Issue](#)
- 11.D. City Manager's Reports **Page 47 - 51**
[CM Report for November 14, 2022](#)
[CM Report for November 28, 2022](#)
- 11.E. EDC Meeting & City Council Report Calendar **Page 52**
[EDC 2023 Calendar](#)
- 12. COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE** (3 minute time limit)
- 13. COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF**
- 14. COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION**
- 15. ADJOURNMENT** Next Regular Meeting is **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.** All meetings are scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Session 22-10 a Special Meeting of the Economic Development Advisory Commission was called to order by Chair Karin Marks at 6:00 p.m. on November 1, 2022 at the City Hall Conference Room located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar, and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. One seat remains vacant.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS MARKS, BROWN, CHEROK, PEREZ, AREVALO

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER GAMBLE (excused)

CONSULTING: STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE PEARSON, CHAMBER DIRECTOR ANDERSON

STAFF: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MANAGER ENGBRETSSEN, DEPUTY CITY CLERK TUSSEY,
FINANCE DIRECTOR WALTON

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

CHEROK/PEREZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Commissioner Arevalo arrived at 6:03 p.m.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

4. RECONSIDERATION

5. CONSENT AGENDA (Items listed below are considered routine and non-controversial by the Commission and are approved in one motion. If a separate discussion is desired on an item, a Commissioner may request that item be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Agenda under New Business.)

5.A. EDC Meeting Minute Approval
October 11, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

Chair Marks read the Consent Agenda and requested a motion.

AREVALO/PEREZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

6. VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

6.A. Homer Chamber of Commerce Annual Presentation - Brad Anderson, Chamber Director

Chair Marks introduced Homer Chamber Director Brad Anderson.

Mr. Anderson presented the Homer Chamber of Commerce's 2022 annual presentation to the Economic Development Advisory Commission. He spoke to the following topics:

- Chamber's efforts to establish their 2022-2027 strategic plan and priorities
- Their long-term envisioned future for a thriving, multi-dimensional Homer economy, mid-term is for a sustainable Homer economy, and their strategic operating priorities
- How they supported economic development in 2022
- Sales tax collected in Homer: comparisons to other Kenai Peninsula Borough communities and how tourism bounced back from COVID
- Recap of the community events they sponsored in 2022 and new events planned for 2023
- How the chamber has conducted community outreach and education, and partnered with members and Homer Marine Trades Association to promote Homer at trades shows
- The Homer Bucks program and how much funds have circulated since 2018.
- How the chamber has been marketing Homer with their visitor guide, magazine, video, through partners, physical chamber locations, social media, and the website and its interactive tools for booking/reservations and maps

Mr. Anderson facilitated discussion and responded to questions from commissioners.

7. STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.A. EDC Staff Report

Economic Development Manager Engebretsen provided a verbal report, noting the following:

- Trick-or-treating turnout at Homer City Hall; about 235 kids stopped by.
- Her recent Transportation Plan presentation at the Senior Center.
- Results of a presentation she watched from the State demographers pertaining to cost of living, housing, and community capacity, and comments the Senior Center Director shared with her on how labor shortages affect services for senior citizens and the elderly.
- Council approved funding for the Small Business Development Center representative position; she hopes to use them and other community partners as resources while staff evolves our way of managing our City-owned land for lease.
- Status on how the Transportation Plan Community Outreach is going and upcoming events.

7.B. Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District (KPEDD) Report

Chair Marks verbally reported on KPEDD's quarterly meeting:

- Noted some of the projects they're working on include a Broadband Task Force, an Economic Development Administration Revolving Loan Fund, an Economic Resiliency Program, and its involvement with a Kenai Peninsula Transit Group.
- Shared that the Pratt Museum's Executive Director will be speaking at City Council at their November 14th meeting not just about the Pratt but about an economic development administration grant they've received for planning a type of outdoor venue for presentations and performances.
- Spoke to how Homer is using more of KPEDD's resources for handling community projects, paperwork, and guidance for securing more funding.
- Commented on how she looks forward to integrate some of these topics into their strategic plan and goals.

There was discussion on the upcoming Chamber Luncheons and Industry Forums, commissioners' attendance at these events, using them for networking, and how they're advertised.

7.C. Homer Marine Trades Association (HMTA) Report

Economic Development Manager Engebretsen noted she is working to invite a HMTA member to give a report at an upcoming EDC meeting.

8. PUBLIC HEARING

9. PENDING BUSINESS

9.A. Housing Staff Report
Agenda Item Report EDC 22-001

Chair Marks introduced the agenda item by reading the title and deferred to Economic Development Manager Engebretsen to give a report.

Ms. Engebretsen reported that City Council has not taken any action on short-term rentals since Council's October 10th worksession. At this time this topic is not scheduled for any of their upcoming meetings for the remaining year.

Chair Marks commented on her efforts to keep this subject at the forefront while many people are discussing transportation, the Comprehensive Plan, and at events such as the Industry Forum, with the assistance of Chamber Director Brad Anderson and KPEDD.

In response to questions from Commissioner Perez, Chair Marks explained how the current objective is to acknowledge there is a housing situation here in Homer (as there are in other communities such as Seward) and bringing people with different viewpoints together to agree that we're in this together and how can we embrace some basics.

Ms. Engebretsen added how it sounds like Seward is addressing their housing issue by providing education to their current residents about the magnitude of the problem. Different tables are discussing the need for housing.

9.B. Annual Review of the Strategic Plan
Agenda Item Report EDC 22-002

Chair Marks introduced the agenda item by reading the title and deferred to Economic Development Manager Engebretsen.

Ms. Engebretsen spoke to the edits she made to the strategic plan and goals based on the feedback she received from the commission at their last meeting. She asked the commission to consider the edits, make any other changes to the document, and adopt the amended document.

Chair Marks opened the floor for any comments or additions/edits to the plan.

Commissioner Arevalo commented that many of these items seem more aspirational than goal-like, and if an opportunity comes up they can always add it to an agenda. Commissioners Cherok, Brown, and Perez had no objections to the plan as presented.

Commissioner Arevalo had no wordsmithing edits. Commissioner Perez commented on if there was a way they could track workforce support gaps. Ms. Engebretsen revised existing Goal #4 in mid-term goals to address his comments. There was discussion on the goal's phrasing.

Commissioner Brown commented on the wording for near-term goals #2, #3, and #5 and there being disconnect between the Chamber of Commerce's efforts to market Homer and if the City is in a position to invite people to Homer if we can't support them. She suggests a conversation should be had between the City and the Chamber. Discussion ensued on how the EDC's goals have recognized their effort to make that balance, concerns with the relationship with the Chamber to address these issues, and rephrasing Goal #5.

Student Representative Pearson left the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

There was further discussion on wordsmithing.

BROWN/CHEROK MOVED TO APPROVE THE AMENDED 2022-2023 EDC STRATEGIC PLAN AND GOALS.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

10. NEW BUSINESS

10.A. EDC Meeting Schedule for 2023 Agenda Item Report EDC 22-003

Chair Marks introduced the agenda item by reading the title. She explained how this is their annual opportunity to set their regular meeting agenda for the upcoming year and shared experiences with certain meetings being cancelled due to absences/busy schedules.

Chair Marks suggested they cancel the July meeting. There was discussion on also canceling the December meeting or whether the meetings should remain scheduled just in case.

AREVALO/PEREZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION'S 2023 REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE AMENDED TO REMOVE THE JULY AND DECEMBER MEETINGS, AND RECOMMEND TO CITY COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

10.B. Decision to Hold the EDC's December Regular Meeting Agenda Item Report EDC 22-004

Chair Marks introduced the agenda item by reading the title.

Commissioners shared their availability for that week. The consensus was majority of the commission would not be able to attend.

PEREZ/CHEROK MOVED TO CANCEL THE EDC'S DECEMBER 13TH REGULAR MEETING.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

- 10.C. Annual EDC Report to City Council
Agenda Item Report EDC 22-005

Chair Marks introduced the agenda item by reading the title and deferred to Economic Development Manager Engebretsen.

Ms. Engebretsen explained how the annual EDC report to City Council provides a recap of what the year looked like and what was worked on. She went over the components of the report and facilitated discussion on the draft; commissioners suggested wordsmithing edits and confirmed which dates it will be before City Council.

PEREZ/BROWN MOVED TO APPROVE THE EDC'S 2022 ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE CITY COUNCIL.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

11. INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- 11.A. City Manager's Reports
 - CM Report for October 10, 2022
 - CM Report for October 24, 2022
- 11.B. EDC 2022 Meeting & City Council Report Calendar
 - EDC 2022 Calendar
- 11.C. Written Testimony
 - Email to City Council, City Manager, & Mayor Re: HERC Improvements from Kathy Hill dated 10/30/22

Chair Marks noted the informational materials provided in the packet.

12. COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

13. COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Economic Development Manager Engebretsen thanked the commission.

Deputy City Clerk Tussey reported on Early Voting efforts that were taking place and reminded commissioners of the election timeline if they haven't voted yet.

14. COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Cherok had no further comments.

Commissioner Brown thanked Chamber Director Brad Anderson for his presentation. She commented on the interesting prospect of comparing collected sales tax and visitor numbers by sectors. Ms. Engebretsen commented on certain variables that would need to be considered when making that comparison, but that it was good food for thought.

Commissioner Perez wished everyone a happy holidays and new year.

Commissioner Arevalo reported on three days' worth of workshops regarding resilient community food systems for here on the Kenai Peninsula that are coming up, and some session and schedule details about the workshops if anyone is interested in attending them.

Commissioner Marks thanked the commissioners and staff and that they are glad they're going to take a break before coming back January 10th. She thinks it will be a very fulfilling year.

15. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chair Marks adjourned the meeting at 8:04 p.m. The next regular meeting is Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. All meetings are scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers and via Zoom Webinar.

RACHEL TUSSEY, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK II

Approved: _____



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

EDC January Staff Report

Item Type: Informational Item
Prepared For: Economic Development Advisory Commission
Meeting Date: 10 Jan 2023
Staff Contact: Julie Engebretsen, Economic Development Manager
Department: Economic Development

Summary Statement:

- December was a busy month for staff. Under informational items, check out the January City Newsletter, pages 4-5! I am also working on several grant projects. As you may recall, Congress approved a lot of money for infrastructure projects. Grant applications are now available and the city is working with a consulting team to figure out how this funding can be used to move our projects forward. What we are learning is to be competitive for large federal grants, we have to do a lot more technical work up front. These efforts cost more money and staff time than we are accustomed to, but we hope these efforts will result in big things for Homer, specifically for the port, the airport, and non-motorized transportation.
- Upcoming Events:
 - KPEDD Industry Outlook Forum, Thursday January 5th. (Will be an agenda item)
 - Career Fair at Kachemak Bay Campus, Friday March 3rd.
- Commissioner Arevalo provided the following information:

"The Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future and the Bloomberg Center for Government Excellence developed a new tool, Food System Resilience: A Planning Guide for Local Governments, for local governments to prepare for food systems disruptions caused by natural and human-made disasters. As local governments around the United States have started to take action to prevent the consequences of food system disruptions, they've found that limited information is available to support this work."

<https://www.facebook.com/akfoodpolicy/photos/a.450401524983297/5769284583094938/>



**Homer Marine Trades Association
Regular Business Meeting Minutes
November 8, 2022
Homer Harbor Office**

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President, Aaron Fleenor at 6:00 p.m.

Officer/Directors Present: Aaron Fleenor, Jen Hakala, Adam Smude, Kate Mitchell, Eric Engebretsen and Mark Zieset. Claire Neaton, Cinda Martin, Josh Hankin-Foley, and Bruce Friend were absent and excused. A quorum was established.

Guest Presentations: none

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Mark Zieset to approve the agenda as presented, 2nd and carried.

Approval of Minutes of October 19, 2022: Motion by Mark Zieset to approve the minutes of the October meeting, 2nd and carried.

Treasurer's Report: Jen Hakala gave the Treasurer's Report - \$27,185 balance in the checking account; Tide Books and brochures will be coming due, the Homer Hockey banner has been paid. Suggested that the board review a 3-year comparison of HMTA Financial Position and Statement of Activity.

Committee Reports:

- Advertising – Kate
 - Member Brochures have gone to print
- Website/Social Media – Josh
 - Josh and Claire have been working on updating the membership list and splitting out for various outlets
- Workforce Development - Aaron
 - FOLs – Aaron reported that FOLs have been scheduled through November
 - KPC courses – ABYC course is slated for December
- Scholarship – no report
- Membership – no report

Old Business:

- PME –
 - Banner – Aaron will transport the banner
 - Furniture/Equipment – a ladder has been ordered
 - Registrations – Jen registered those she knew were going to be in the booth
 - Any display needs – none
- Communications Director – Claire worked on the job description and has someone in mind for the position. Eric does as well. Motion by Kate Mitchell to hire a Communications Director, 2nd carried. Suggested that we publicly advertise the position and vote via email to hire.

New Business

- Anchorage Boat Show – February 17, 18, 19, 2023. No additional news.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 21st, Christmas party at Odin Meadery at 6pm, pot luck, spouses are invited.

Adjourn: There being no further business to come before the board of directors, the meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amber Fleenor, Secretary pro-tem

**Homer Marine Trades Association
Regular Business Meeting
January 4, 2023
Odin Meadery**

AGENDA

Call to Order

Guest Presentations

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes of November meeting

Treasurer's Report –Jen Hakala
Review 3-Year Comparison Profit & Loss

Committee Reports:

- Advertising – Kate
- Website/Social Media – Josh
- Workforce Development - Aaron
 - FOLs – follow up with Walter
 - KPC courses – follow up with Jill
 - Career Fair at KPC 3/3/23 – Cinda
 - Jesus Trejo – private license to proctor
- Scholarship – Cinda
- Membership –

Old Business:

- Anchorage Boat Show – Feb 17, 18, 19, 2023 at Dena'ina Center
- Communications Director Position – candidate review, resume attached

New Business

- PME – 2023

Next Meeting:

Adjourn:



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Housing Report

Item Type: Action Memorandum
Prepared For: Economic Development Advisory Commission
Meeting Date: 10 Jan 2023
Staff Contact: Julie Engebretsen, Economic Development Manager
Department: Economic Development

Summary Statement:

Literally as staff was writing this report, the housing conversation has changed. The City was intending to host a housing forum and was in the initial planning stages. However, after contacting Jeff Eide at the South Peninsula Hospital Foundation, the City learned there is a larger group of organizations who would like to work on this issue. Rather than the City hosting a forum, we feel joining a larger community effort is a better use of everyone (including the public's time).

Stay tuned!

Staff Recommendation:

No action at this time. This is a standing agenda item.



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Discussion of Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District (KPEDD) Industry Outlook Forum & EDC Strategic Plan

Item Type: Action Memorandum
Prepared For: Economic Development Advisory Commission
Meeting Date: 10 Jan 2023
Staff Contact: Julie Engebretsen, Economic Development Manager
Department: Economic Development
Attachments: [Industry Outlook Forum Agenda, January 5, 2023](#)
[2022-2023 EDC Strategic Plan - adopted November 2022](#)

Summary Statement:

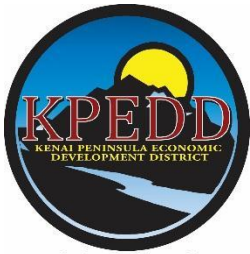
Chair Marks and staff will be attending the Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District (KPEDD) Industry Outlook Forum on Thursday January 5, 2023. We will provide an overview of the forum presentations at the EDC meeting. The Commission can then review the 2023 EDC Strategic Plan and see if new information from the forum sparks any changes or ideas about how to accomplish the goals.

Staff Recommendation:

For discussion; any action taken should be in the form of a motion.

Attachments:

[Industry Outlook Forum Agenda, January 5, 2023](#)
[2022-2023 EDC Strategic Plan - adopted November 2022](#)



Leadership to enhance, foster and promote economic development

Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District
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 Main Campus
 14896 Kenai Spur Highway
 Suite 103-A
 Kenai, Alaska 99611
 (907)283-3335
www.kpedd.org

2023 INDUSTRY OUTLOOK FORUM

HOSTED BY

Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District

And Supported By

Cities and Chambers of Commerce of:

Homer, Soldotna, Kenai, and Seward

Thursday, January 5th, 2023 - Christian Community Church, Homer, AK

8:15	Registration & Continental Breakfast	30 min
8:45 – 8:55	Safety Minute, Pledge of Allegiance & Overview of the Day <i>Cassidi Cameron, KPEDD Special Projects Manager</i>	10 min
8:55 – 9:00	Welcome & Greetings From City of Homer <i>Ken Castner, Mayor City of Homer</i>	5 min
9:00 – 9:05	Native Land Acknowledgment <i>Rusty Swan, KPEDD Board President</i>	5 min
9:05 – 9:30	Regional And State Tourism Update <i>Sarah Leonard, Executive Director of ATIA</i>	25 min
9:30 – 9:50	Long Trail Update <i>Chris Beck, Initiative Program Coordinator at Alaska Trails</i>	20 min
9:50 – 10:00	Networking Break	10 min
10:00 – 10:40	The Sea & Its Products <i>Nick Zorich, CEO and Founder of Agri-Sea Infrared Drying</i> <i>Jeff Hetrick, Mariculture Director at Alutiiq Pride Marine Institute</i>	40 min
10:40 – 11:10	Food Sustainability Systems Around the Kenai Peninsula <i>Marnie Olcott, CEO of the Challenging Learning Center of Alaska</i>	30 min
11:10 – 11:50	Broadband Update <i>Thomas Lochner, Director of the Alaska Office of Broadband</i>	40 min

12:00 – 1:00	Lunch: Homer Panel <i>Karin Marks, Chairman of the Homer Economic Development Commission & Homer Representative to the KPEDD Board</i> <i>Brad Anderson, Executive Director of the Homer Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center</i> <i>Rob Dumouchel, City Manager of the City of Homer</i> <i>Kathryn Ault, co-owner of Inlet Charters</i>	Page 3 of 6 1 hr
1:00 – 1:30	Alaska Department of Transportation Update - State and Regional <i>David Post, AK DOT Field Office Planning Manager</i>	30 min
1:30 – 2:30	Natural Resources Panel <i>Lisa Haas, Environmental, Regulatory & Lands Manager, Alaska Gasline Development Corporation</i> <i>Deantha Skibinski, Executive Director of the Alaska Miners Association</i> <i>Kara Moriarty, CEO of the Alaska Oil and Gas Association</i>	1 hr
2:30 – 2:45	Networking Break	15 min
2:45 – 3:00	Workforce Resources and Information Panel <i>Lisa Croft, Alaska Job Center Employment Service Manager</i> <i>Cheryl Siemers, Director of the KPC</i> <i>WATCH: AVTEC Prepares Alaskans for Work without a College Degree</i>	15 min
3:00 – 3:30	Native Partners and Stakeholders' Update <i>Ashley Christensen, Chugach Community Development Program Director</i> <i>Peter Evon, Executive Director of the Kenaitze Indian Tribe</i>	30 min
3:30 – 3:45	KPEDD Upcoming Events and Closing <i>Cassidi Cameron, KPEDD Special Projects Manager</i>	15 min

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION
2022-2023 STRATEGIC PLAN & GOALS**

<p>Ongoing Goals</p>	<p>1. Use the Commission’s SWOT analysis to develop strategies to implement policies that support Homer’s quality of life.</p>
	<p>2. Keep our ears to the ground and seek out areas of "lack." Confer with Julie about communicating with City Council and advising them on ways to overcome barriers- "the nexus of economic goals."</p>
<p>Near Term Goals < 6 Months</p>	<p>1. Familiarize with smart growth principles and best practices, and also green infrastructure concepts. Have these in our toolbox when development decisions come our way for consideration.</p> <p><i>Task:</i> Staff to provide smart growth resources.</p> <p><i>Task:</i> Promote energy resiliency through diversity and efficiency. Invite a speaker to talk about energy as that impacts cost of doing business and cost of living. (Perez)</p>
	<p>2. View economic development through the lens of balancing growth with quality of life.</p> <p><i>Task:</i> Create an EDC Mission statement as a guiding principle for what the EDC does.</p> <p><i>Task:</i> Define positive economic development, and what is the role of the EDC is in balancing growth and quality of life.</p> <p>(Perez volunteered, first quarter 2023)</p>
	<p>3. Housing: affordable short and long term housing. Seasonal workers, general work force, seniors, etc. affordable year round housing. (Marks)</p> <p><i>Task:</i> Stay engaged with the City for all housing conversations</p>
	<p>4. Present an annual report of EDC accomplishments to the City Council</p> <p><i>Task:</i> Approve memo to Council, read accomplishments to Council</p>
	<p>5. Have a conversation with the Chamber of Commerce about other economic development beyond tourism. How can the City and the Chamber work together to promote quality of life, and economic development for industries other than tourism, including messaging?</p> <p><i>Task:</i> Have a work session with the Chamber</p>
<p>Mid Term Goals 1 - 3 Years (2022 – 2025)</p>	<p>1. BR&E – review annually and plan for a new report (5 year mark is 2022-2023) <i>Opportunity:</i> Consider a funding request for the FY 2024-2025 budget</p>
	<p>2. Downtown vitalization momentum and wayfinding/streetscape plan</p> <p><i>Status:</i> Wayfinding and Streetscape work ongoing through 21 and implementation activities in 2022-2024</p> <p><i>Task:</i> Participate in the Transportation Plan, focusing on a walkable town with greenspace and connected business districts</p> <p><i>Longer term:</i> Consider storefront/Downtown and landscaping improvement program</p>

	<p>3. Economic resiliency planning.</p> <p><i>Opportunity:</i> EDC provide suggestions to KPEDD on the business tool box. EDC promote tool box to community.</p> <hr/> <p>4. Assess jobs training needs, workforce development, availability of workers and workforce supports including child care, housing.</p> <p><i>Opportunity:</i> Invite KBC Director Reid Brewer as speaker, how does the college make course offering decisions? How is work force development part of the planning? What does the KBC Advisory Board do?</p> <p><i>Opportunity:</i> Invite 9-Star to make a presentation</p> <p><i>Opportunity:</i> Brief survey to businesses and employees on their needs.</p>
<p>Long Term Goals 5 Years or More (2025+)</p>	<p>1. Multipurpose community center (HERC)</p> <p><i>Status:</i> Scoping study has been funded. Demolition of the smaller building has been funded; tear down planned in 2023.</p>

OVERALL EDC DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Economic Development Advisory Commission will act in an advisory capacity to the City Manager and the City Council on the overall economic development planning for the City of Homer in accordance with Homer City Code Chapter 2.76; www.codepublishing.com/AK/Homer. The EDC also assists with official City planning documents including the following:

- Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District (KPEDD) – Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (link will bring you to all KPEDD reports): <https://kpedd.org/reports>
- Homer’s Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS): www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/economicdevelopment/comprehensive-economic-development-strategy
- Business Retention and Expansion Survey Report (BR&E): <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/economicdevelopment/2017-business-retention-expansion-survey-report>
- Homer Comprehensive Plan: <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/planning/comprehensive-plan>

DUTIES OF COMMISSION/STAFF

Commissioners

- Attend City Council meetings as assigned.
- Attend work sessions and training opportunities.
- Come prepared to make a motion for action at meetings, or ask staff before the meeting for more information.
- Communicate with City Council members to gain support on EDC-related projects that need sponsorship at the Council level.

Staff (Julie Engebretsen)

- Aid the Chair in setting the agenda.
- Compile packet material from commissioners, write backup memos, and submit to Clerk.
- Provide information on items the commission needs to review annually.

- Inform the Commission of City Council actions and discussion of economic development related issues.

Clerk's Office

- Aid Staff in compiling packet materials and print/distribute them to the Commission.
- Aid Staff and Chair in setting the agenda.
- Tracking yearly items such as reappointments and elections.
- Help the Commission learn to be more efficient and effective in their meetings.
- Support the Commission's ability to communicate with the Mayor and City Council (through Memorandums, Resolutions, and Ordinances).

Alaska's Economic Performance in National Context

By the University of Alaska Center for Economic Development, November 2022

Alaska has underperformed relative to the national economy for several years. From 2015 to 2018, the state experienced 36 consecutive months of declining employment as the U.S. economy (and most states) saw steady expansion. The main culprit for Alaska's lagging performance during these years was the low price of oil. A period of oil prices in excess of \$100 per barrel came to an end in 2014, leading to falling employment in multiple sectors tied to the industry. When employment stopped declining in 2018, growth failed to materialize; seasonally adjusted employment was essentially unchanged from late 2018 to early 2020. Then the COVID-19 pandemic struck.

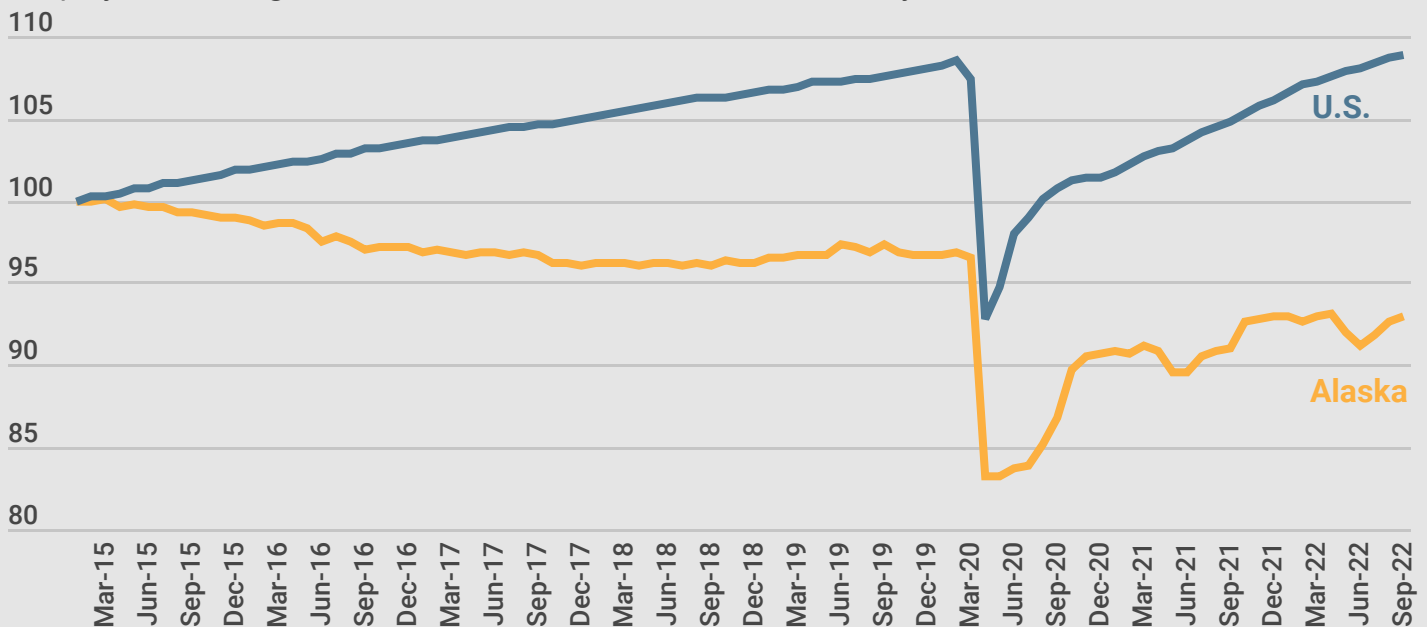
Alaska saw a sharp decline in employment similar to the rest of the U.S. in March and April 2020. However, the state's recovery has been notably slower than for the national economy.

While U.S. employment reached pre-pandemic levels in the summer of 2022, Alaska employment remains well below.

The sections that follow compare Alaska's economic performance from 2015 to 2021 to the other 49 states as well as the District of Columbia. The primary indicators for this analysis are employment growth, unemployment rates, gross domestic product (GDP) and net migration. We show that on all four measures, Alaska ranks at or near the bottom for all states. We then examine state performance from early 2020 to 2022 to document the pandemic-affected period and recovery, in terms of employment growth and GDP. This time period also indicates poor relative performance for Alaska, raising concerns about the state's future growth prospects.

Employment growth: paths diverge

Employment change in the U.S. and Alaska, indexed to January 2015



Source: BEA

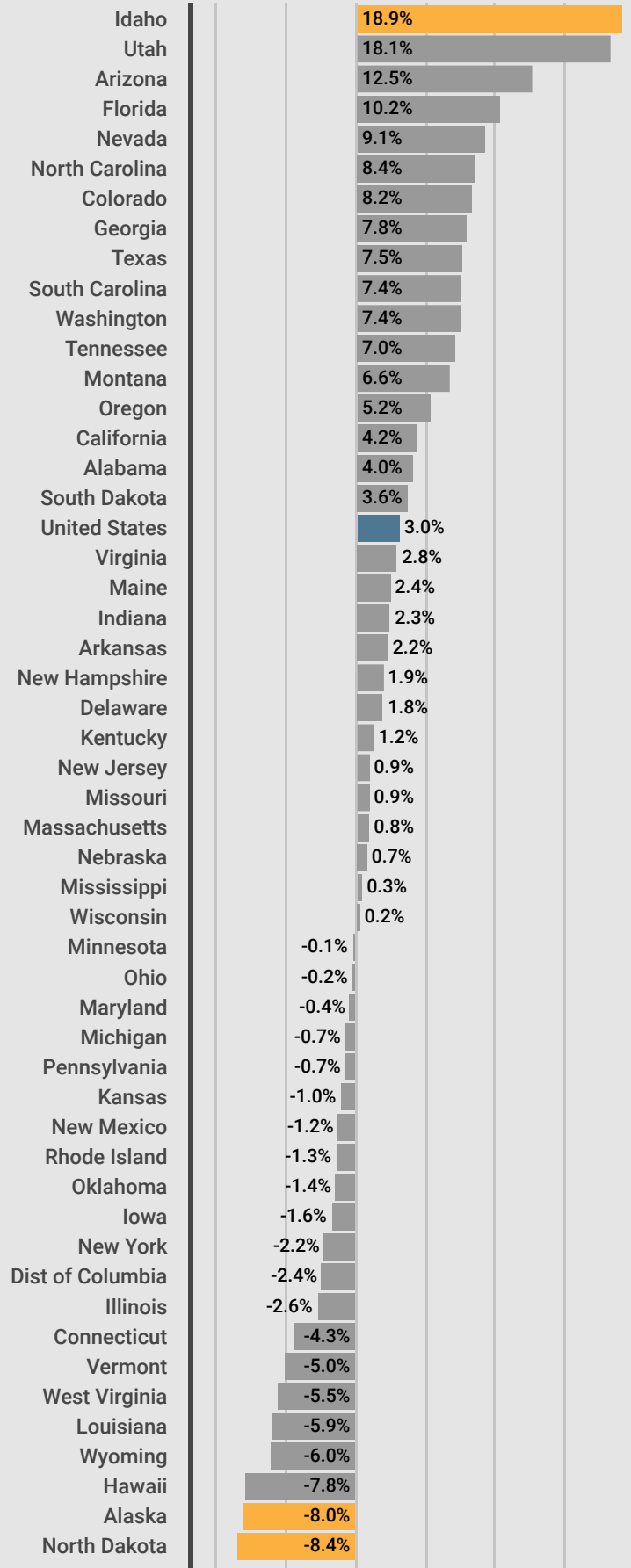
Employment Growth

Job creation is one of the most intuitive and basic expectations of a healthy economy. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) tracks and publishes monthly data on employment and wages in partnership with states. In Alaska, the Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOL&WD) collects employment and wage data from employers who participate in the unemployment insurance system, under an agreement with BLS. Employment data are released monthly and give a timely picture of economic health, though initial releases are preliminary and subject to revision.

While the rest of the country experienced employment growth, Alaska employment dropped 8% from 2015 to 2021.

The U.S. economy enjoyed a decade of steady employment expansion from 2010 to 2020, interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This same decade saw Alaska reach its all-time employment peak in 2015 followed by five years of declining or stagnant employment. For the 2015-2021 time period, Alaska shed 8% of its annual average employment, compared to a gain of 3% nationally. Only North Dakota saw a larger drop in employment with a loss of 8.4%.

Employment Growth from 2015 to 2021



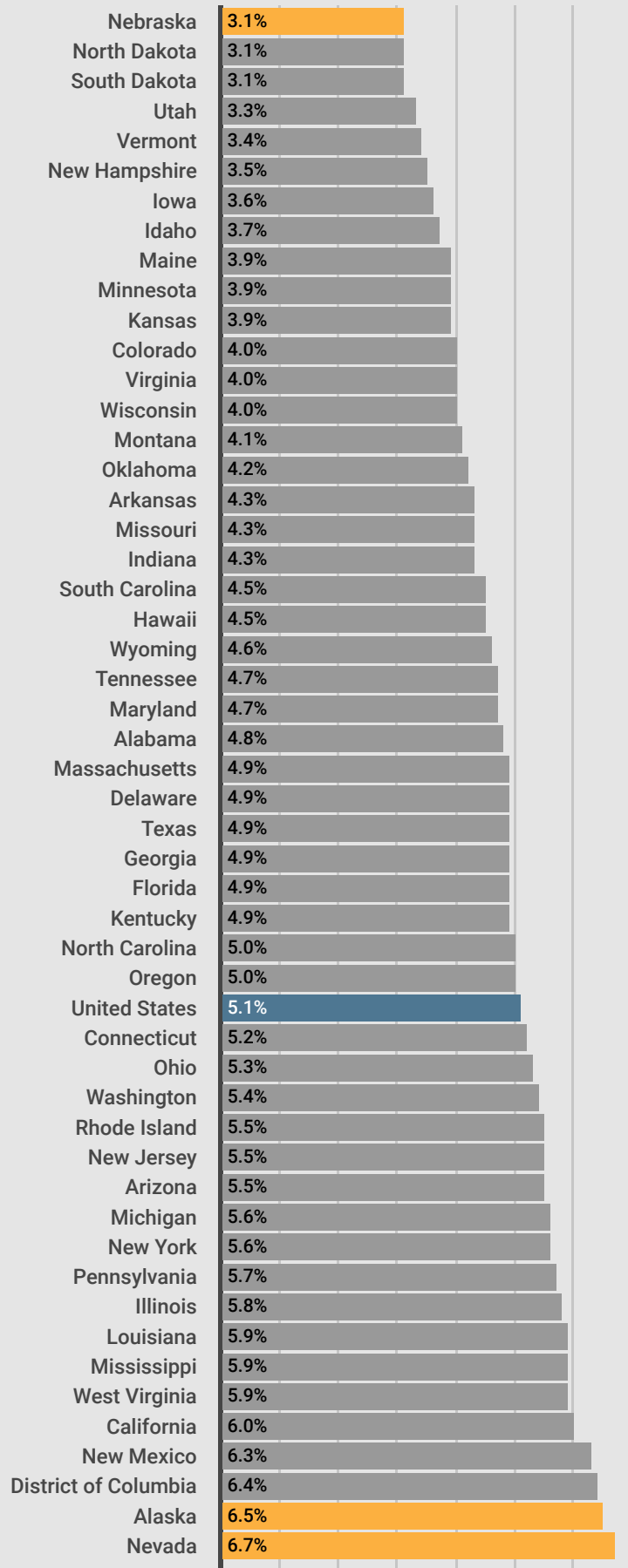
Unemployment

The unemployment rate is the share of individuals aged 16 and older who are available to work and seeking employment, but do not have a job. It is a frequently-cited indicator of labor market tightness and economic distress. It is possible for a regional economy to show positive employment and GDP growth but still have a relatively high unemployment rate. The reverse can also be true.

Up until the pandemic, the U.S. economy enjoyed a period of historically low unemployment, falling to an annual rate of 3.7% in 2019—a multi-decade low for the country. Alaska, meanwhile, had the highest average rate of any state (or DC) in 2017, 2018, and 2019. Several states suffered worse unemployment in 2020 and 2021, but Alaska’s rates stayed above the national level. Across the 2015 to 2021 time period, Alaska had the second highest average unemployment rate at 6.5%, against 5.1% for the U.S. as a whole. Only Nevada fared worse at 7.2%.

While Alaska’s unemployment rate during this time period was high compared to other states, it was not especially high in historic terms. Monthly unemployment stayed below 7% until the pandemic-induced job losses of 2020. By contrast, the 2008-2010 “Great Recession” saw monthly rates as high as 8.4% in the state, which was still lower than the national rate at the time.

Average Unemployment Rate, 2015-2021



GDP Growth

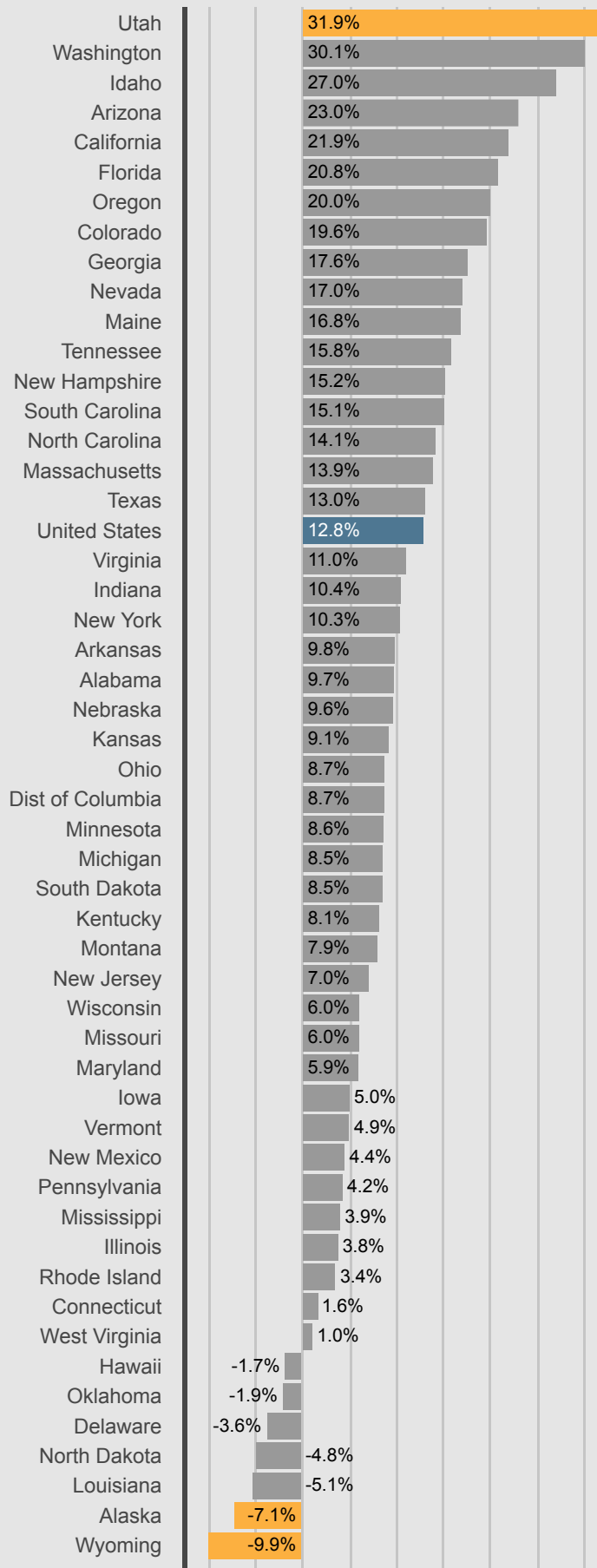
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the total value of all goods and services produced in a country, state, or other geography for a given time period. Economists often use GDP growth as the “headline” measure of economic performance, especially for national economies. The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) publishes official GDP estimates for the U.S. economy as well as each state. These are released quarterly, and subject to revision as more complete data becomes available.

Alaska’s GDP for 2021 was \$57.3 billion, the smallest of all states except Wyoming and Vermont—these are also the only two states with smaller populations than Alaska.

From 2015 to 2021 state GDP shrank by 7.1%, the second largest decline of all 50 states plus the District of Columbia.

Real (inflation-adjusted) GDP for Alaska has declined since its peak in 2012. From 2015 to 2021 state GDP shrank by 7.1%, the second largest decline of all 50 states plus the District of Columbia. Wyoming, with a decline of 9.9%, is the only state with a larger decline. Over the same time, U.S. GDP grew by 12.8%.

Real GDP growth from 2015 to 2021



Source: BEA

Net Migration

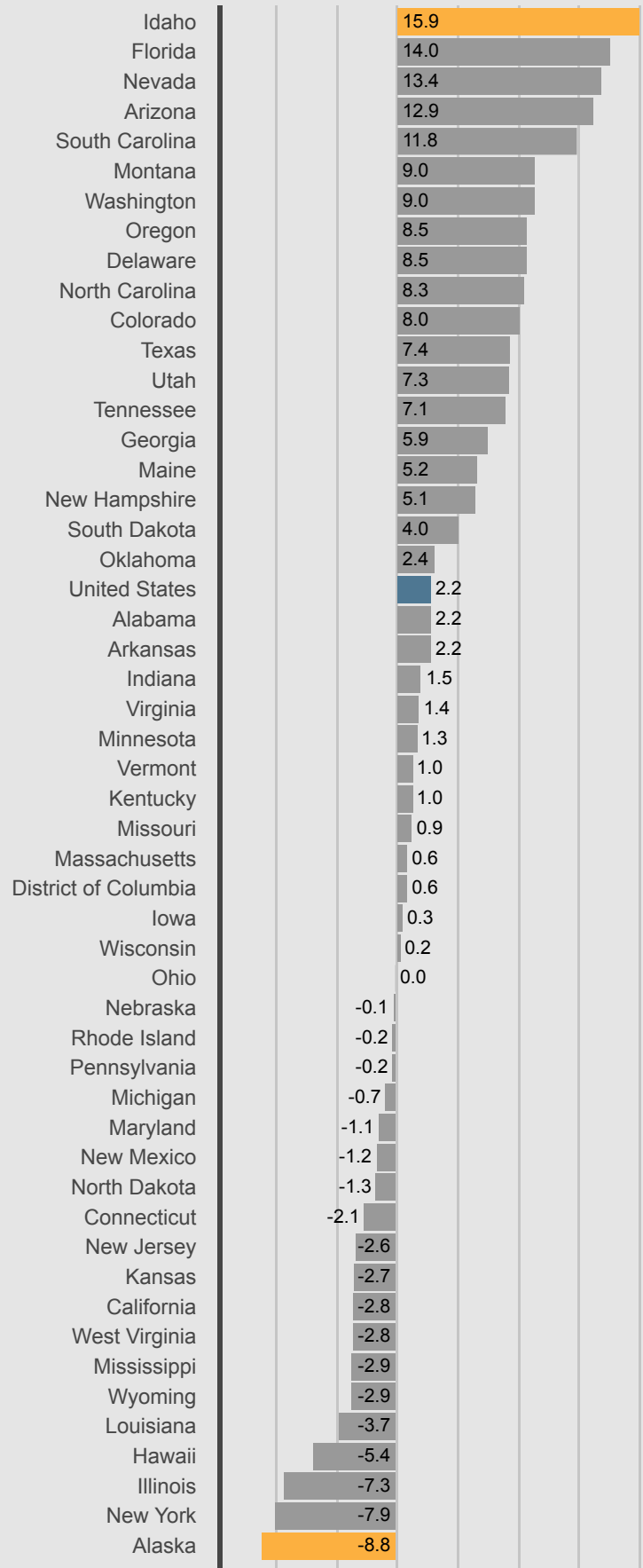
Closely related to declining employment is Alaska’s recent net outmigration streak. Each year from 2012 to 2021, more people have moved away from the state than to it. Net migration can be a useful indicator of economic health at the state or local level for a given timespan. Expanding economies usually attract residents, while contracting economies often lose people. Other factors like living costs, quality of life, housing availability, and education also influence the movement of people. The net migration rate can thus be used as a rough gauge of the desirability of a place for a point in time.

Alaska’s average annual net migration rate between 2015 and 2021 is the lowest of any state.

Alaska’s average annual net migration rate between 2015 and 2021 is the lowest of any state, with a loss of 8.8 (-8.8) residents per 1,000. Other low-ranking states include New York (-7.9), Illinois (-7.3) and Hawaii (5.4).

Over the same timespan, the U.S. gained an average of 2.2 residents per 1,000 each year due to migration. Idaho saw the highest net migration rate at 15.9, followed by Florida (14) and Nevada (13.4).

Average Net Migration Per 1,000 Residents, 2015-2021



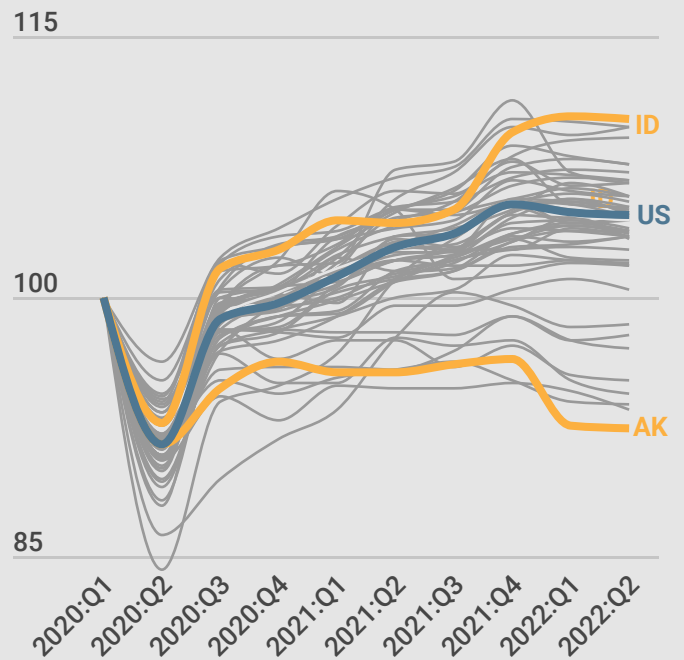
Pandemic Recovery

Both nationally and at the state level, GDP fell sharply in the second quarter of 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Real (inflation adjusted) GDP growth from Q1 2020 to Q2 2022 can be used as a gauge of recovery to pre-pandemic levels. In Q2 2022, Alaska's real GDP was 7.7% below Q1 2020, the lowest of all 50 states and DC. U.S. GDP was 4.8% higher over the same period.

As with GDP, the employment situation in the U.S. was marked by a sharp fall in the spring of 2020, with states seeing varying degrees of employment recovery up to the present in late 2022. From February 2020 to August 2022, U.S. employment grew by 0.2% on a seasonally adjusted basis, essentially recovering all jobs lost as a result of the pandemic. Alaska's employment was still 3.9% below February 2020, with only Vermont, DC, and Hawaii ranking lower.

One surprising aspect of the pandemic recovery has been low unemployment rates throughout the U.S. In September 2022, Alaska's unemployment rate was only 4.4%—a very low rate by historical standards, but still the fourth highest of all states and DC.

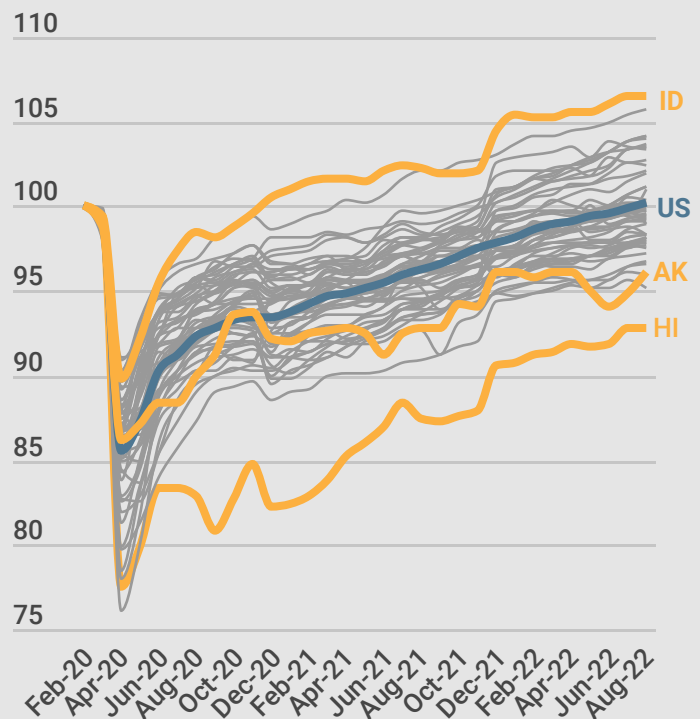
GDP growth during COVID-19



Index of real GDP growth, Q2 2020=100

Source: US Census Bureau Population Estimates

Employment recovery during COVID-19



Index of employment change, Feb 2020=100

Source: BLS, seasonally adjusted

Conclusions

By all measures presented here—employment growth, unemployment, GDP, and net migration—Alaska’s economy appears stuck in a rut relative to the rest of the U.S. This underperformance places Alaska at or near the bottom of all states and DC for the period from 2015 to 2021, as well as the pandemic-affected period from 2020 to the present. This marks seven years of weak or negative growth as measured by GDP and employment, and the highest rate of net outmigration of any state or DC. In 2022, Alaska finds itself making only slow progress back to 2019 employment levels, which were themselves below 2015 levels.

Addressing the underlying causes of Alaska’s failure to grow, and potential solutions to it, is beyond the scope of this brief report. Any potential policy solutions to improve Alaska’s competitiveness, however, should be grounded in a full consideration of Alaska’s recent economic performance, which shows no obvious signs of improvement as these words are written in October 2022.

2015-2021 Economic Performance

Measure	United States	Alaska	Alaska Ranking
GDP Growth	12.8%	-7.1%	50/51
Employment Growth	3%	-8.4%	50/51
Net Migration (ann. average)	2.2 per 1,000	-8.8 per 1,000	51/51
Unemployment (ann. average)	5.1%	6.5%	50/51

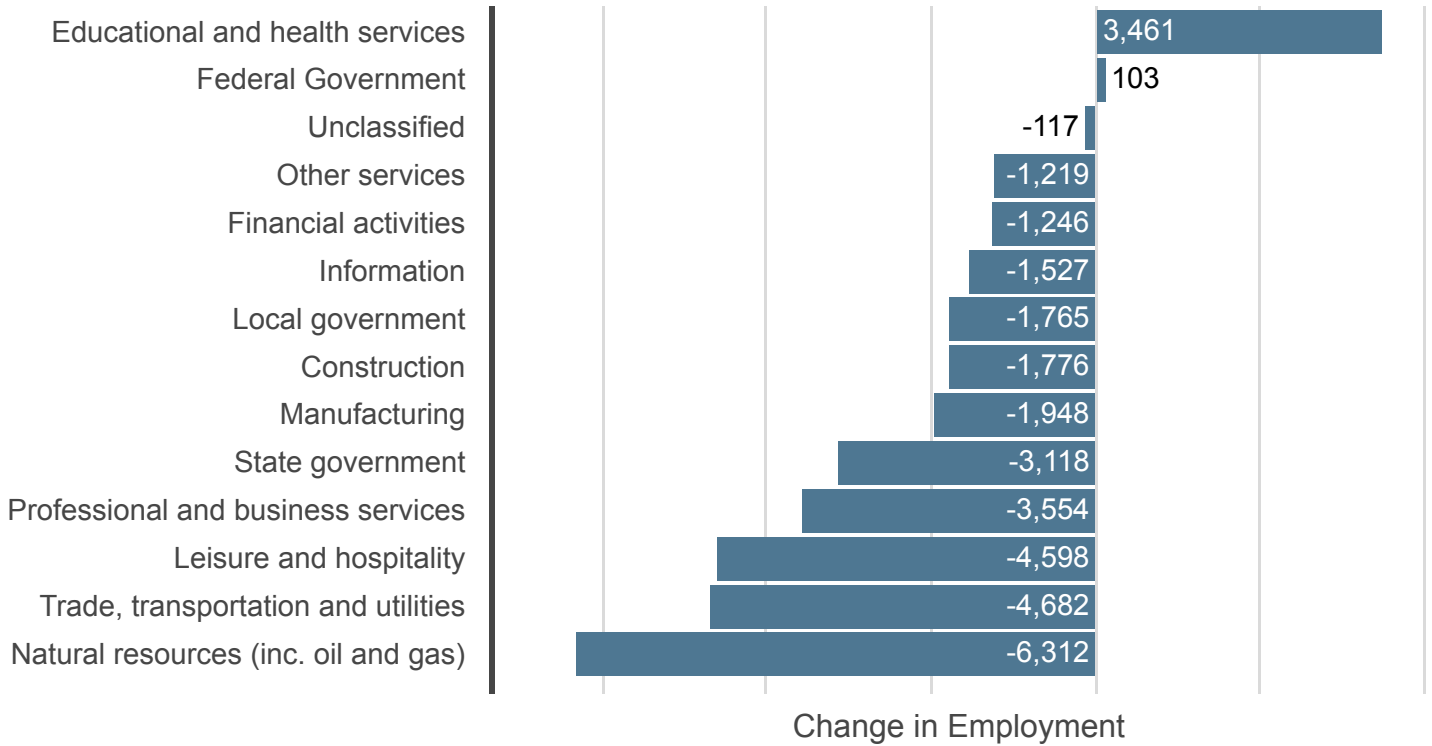
2020-2022 Pandemic Recovery

Measure	United States	Alaska	Alaska Ranking
GDP Growth (Q1 2020 to Q2 2022)	4.8%	-7.7%	51/51
Employment Growth (Feb. 2020 to Aug. 2022)	0.2%	-3.9%	48/51
Unemployment Rate (Sept 2022)	3.5%	4.4%	48/51

Ranking includes all 50 states plus the District of Columbia
Sources: BEA, BLS, Census Bureau.

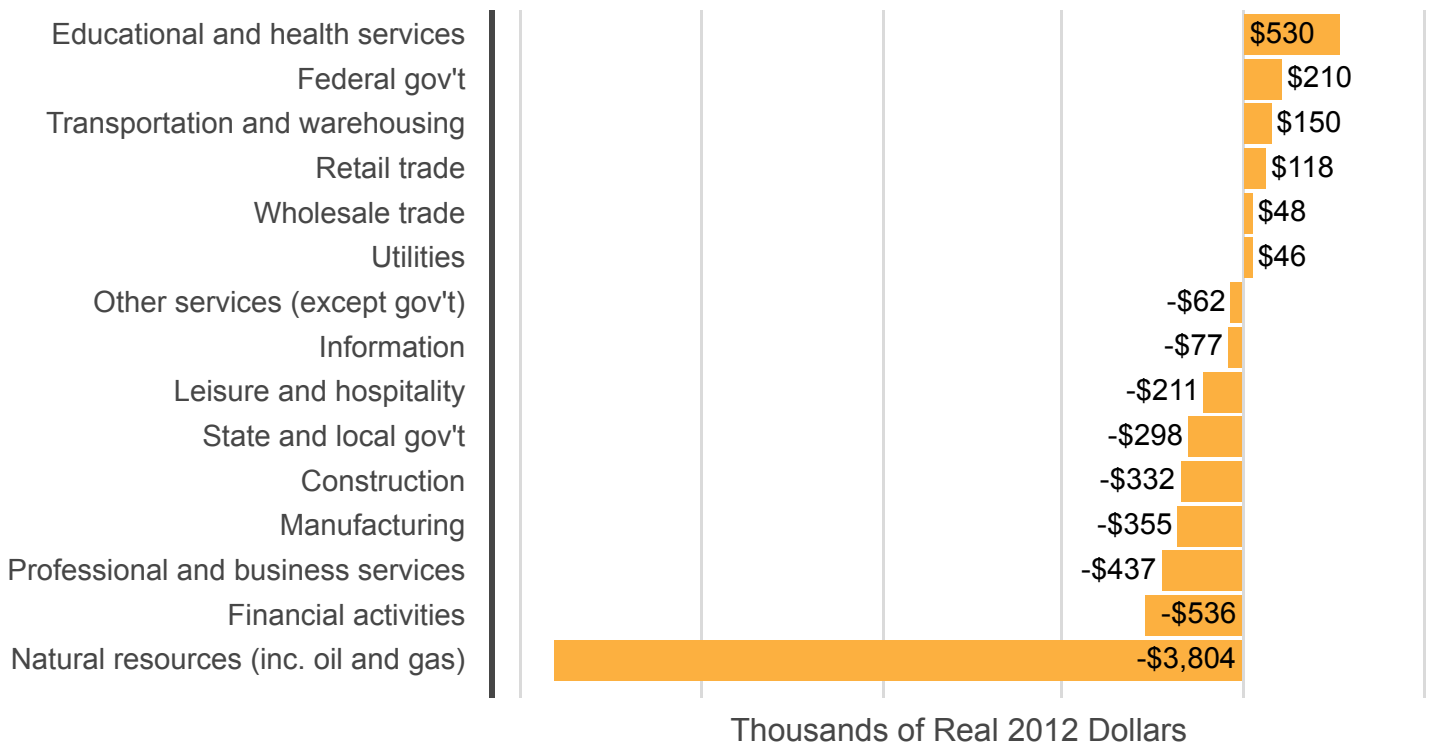
Appendix

Change in Employment by sector for Alaska, 2015-2021



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development

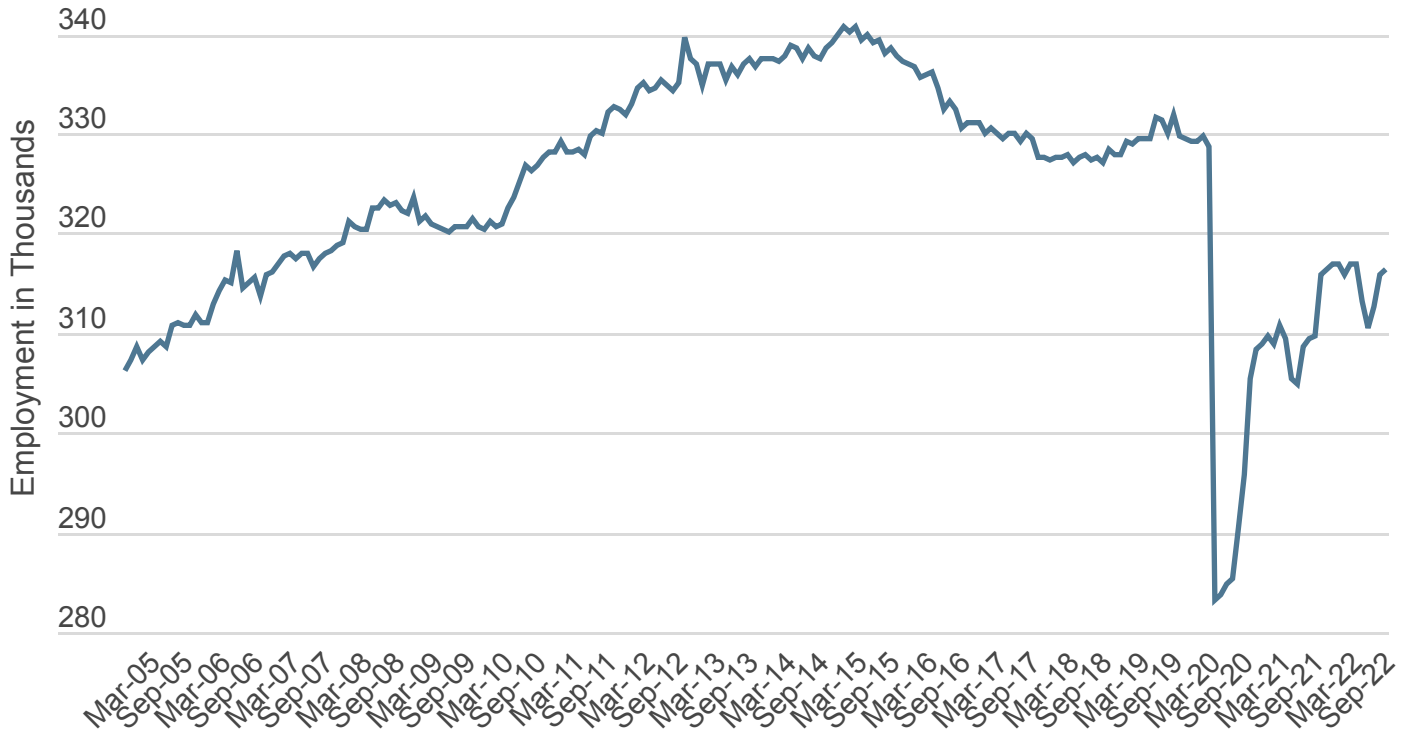
Change in GDP by sector for Alaska, 2015-2021



Source: BEA

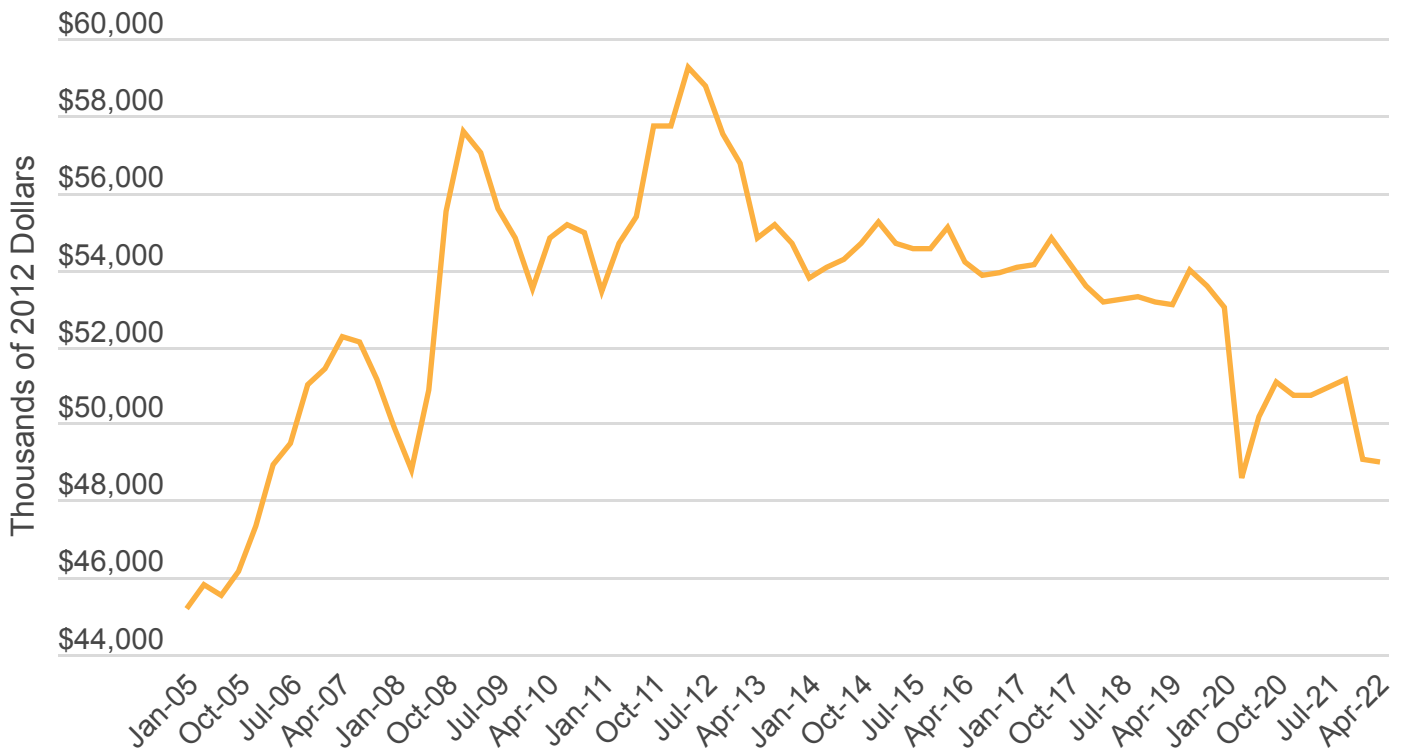
Appendix

Monthly employment for Alaska, 2005-2022



Seasonally adjusted. Source: BLS

Real GDP for Alaska, 2005-2022



Source: BEA

The lead author of this report is Nolan Klouda (nfklouda@alaska.edu) with key contributions from Gretchen Fauske, Richelle Johnson, and Ian Mills. For more information about the Center for Economic Development, visit www.ua-ced.org.



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the Mayor

491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

mayor@ci.homer.ak.us

(p) 907-235-3130

(f) 907-235-3143

Memorandum 22-189

TO: HOMER CITY COUNCIL
FROM: MAYOR CASTNER
DATE: NOVEMBER 8, 2022
SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF GORDON PITZMAN TO THE ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION

Gordon Pitzman is appointed to the Economic Development Advisory Commission to fill the term vacated by Adele Person. This term will expire April 1, 2024.

Recommendation

Confirm the appointment of Gordon Pitzman to the Economic Development Advisory Commission.

Published on *City of Homer Alaska Official Website* (<https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov>)

[Home](#) > [Application for Appointment to an Advisory Body](#) > [Webform results](#) > Application for Appointment to an Advisory Body

Submission information

Form: [Application for Appointment to an Advisory Body](#) [1]

Submitted by Visitor (not verified)

Wed, 09/28/2022 - 1:42pm

216.67.51.247

Applicant Information

Full Name

Gordon Pitzman

Physical Address Where you Claim Residency

990 Bell Ave

Mailing Address

PO Box 3135

Phone Number(s)

9073996265

Email

gpitzman@gmail.com

Advisory Bodies

- Planning Commission – Meetings held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. and Worksessions at 5:30 p.m. prior to each meeting. No first meeting in July or second meetings in November and December.
- Parks, Art, Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission – Meetings held on the 3rd Thursday of February through June and August through November at 5:30 p.m.
- Port & Harbor Advisory Commission – Meetings held on the 4th Wednesday of January, February, March, April, September, and October at 5:00 p.m.; the 4th Wednesday of May, June, July, and August at 6:00 p.m.; and the 2nd Wednesday of December at 5:00 p.m.
- Economic Development Advisory Commission – Meetings held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

Residency

Are you a City Resident? Yes

If yes, how long have you been a City Resident? 50+ years

How long have you been a resident of the South Peninsula Area? 50+ years

Background Information

Have you ever served on a similar advisory body?

If so please list when, where, and how long: I served on the Homer High School Site Council for 2 or 3 years, however long the term was. I also served a term on Friends of Kachemak Bay State Park.

Other memberships

Please list any current memberships or organizations you belong to related to your selection(s):

I'm a member of the National Association of Realtors, the North Pacific Fisheries Association, the Bristol Bay Fisherman's Association, and I am a Homer business owner (Red Knot Real Estate).

Special Training & Education

Please list any special training, education, or background you may have which is related to your selection(s): I'm a retired teacher. I have a Master of Arts in Teaching K-12. I have my real estate license and I currently manage my business Red Knot Real Estate in Homer. For about 10 years I owned a water taxi business as well operating in Kachemak Bay, but I sold out in 2007. I am currently a commercial fishing boat owner and I keep my boat in the harbor year round to participate in oil spill response training and to be ready to respond on a moment's notice. I fished in upper Cook Inlet for 19 years and now I fish in Bristol Bay in the summer.

Why are you interested in serving on the selected Advisory Body?

Please briefly state why you are interested in serving on the advisory body selected. This may include information on future goals or projects you wish to see accomplished or any additional information that may assist the Mayor in the decision making process.

I don't have any pet projects, just looking to get involved in my community and help steer this ship to a future we can all be proud of.

For Planning Commission Only: Have you ever developed real property other than a personal residence?

If yes, briefly explain: No, I have not.

For Port & Harbor Commission Only: Do you use the Homer Port and/or Harbor on a regular basis?

Yes

If yes, what is your primary use?

Commercial and some recreational

Source URL: <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/node/9051/submission/49886>

Links

[1] <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/cityclerk/application-appointment-advisory-body>



City of Homer

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Office of the Mayor

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(p) 907-235-3130

(f) 907-235-3143

November 15, 2022

Gordon Pitzman
P.O. Box 3135
Homer, AK 99603

Dear Gordon,

Congratulations! City Council confirmed/approved your appointment to the Economic Development Advisory Commission during their November 14, 2022 Regular Meeting via Memo 22-189. You will be filling the seat vacated by Adele Person and complete the remaining term, which expires April 1, 2024.

Included is the 2022-2023 Public Official Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement. Please complete this form and return it to the City Clerk's Office at your earliest convenience. The Public Official Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement is a public document that may be requested by a member of the public. In the event it is requested, you will be notified of the requestor's name.

Also included is your EDC Orientation Packet which provides important guidelines and information for your role as a commissioner.

Thank you for your willingness to serve the City of Homer on the Economic Development Advisory Commission. There certainly are exciting times ahead!

Cordially,

Ken Castner, Mayor

Enclosed: Memorandum 22-189
 Certificate of Appointment
 2022-2023 Public Official Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement
 EDC Orientation Packet

Cc: Economic Development Advisory Commission

City of Homer
Homer, Alaska
Mayor's Certificate of Appointment

Greetings
Be It Known That

Gordon Pitzman

Has Been Appointed to Serve As
“Commissioner”

On The
“Economic Development Advisory Commission”


This appointment is made because of your dedication to the cause of good government, your contributions to your community, and your willingness to serve your fellow man.

*In Witness whereof I hereunto set my hand
this 15th day of November 2022.*



Ken Castner, Mayor

Attest:


Melissa Jacobsen, MMC, City Clerk

VOL. II - ISSUE IV | JANUARY 2023

CITY OF HOMER

Monthly Newsletter from the office of the City Manager



Happy New Year

FROM THE CITY OF HOMER

Mariner Park was the setting for Homer residents and visitors from all over the Southern Kenai Peninsula to ring in the New Year. The 5th Annual Crowd-Funded Fireworks Fantastical went off with a big bang thanks to show organizer Aaron Weisser, volunteers from the Homer Rotary Club and hot snacks from Captain's Coffee. Special thanks to the Homer Police Department, Port & Harbor and Public Works crews for providing logistics for the event to help the crowd moving smoothly. As usual, the fireworks show was amazing and was in sync with music played on K-Wave radio. What a fun way to ring in the New Year!

The holiday weekend was reportedly busy on the 911 front with several slip and falls on ice. The freezing temperatures combined by rain has created a slick surface just about everywhere. The Homer Volunteer Fire Department asks that we be extra careful when venturing out. Don't forget to wear your cleats and take it slow and easy when walking and driving.

Have You Made any New Year's Resolutions?

The City of Homer has great opportunities for you to engage in the community whether you'd like to get more involved with the City Council, a Commission or an Advisory Board, or participate in a Community Recreation program. There is always something going on to keep you active and engaged in the community. Follow these links to discover what's happening in the City of Homer.

- [Meeting Calendar](#)
- [Meet the Council](#)
- [Community Recreation](#)
- [Homer Public Library](#)



WHAT'S NEW?

- Library Events
- City Clerk's Office
- Community Corner
- Community Recreation
- Economic Development
- Fire Department
- Planning Department
- Public Safety Notes
- Public Works
- Meet the Staff
- Municipal Art Collection
- Stay Connected with City Council
- Join Our Team

We hope you'll discover something new today as we share the latest information and ways you can tap into what's going on at City Hall and in the Homer community.

Check us out on Facebook

- City Hall - @cityofhomerak
- Parks & Recreation - @homerparksandrec
- Homer Public Library - @homerpubliclibrary
- Homer Police - @homerpolice
- Fire Department - @HomerVolFireDept



Share this link with your friends, so they can get the newsletter too - <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/citymanager/monthly-email-newsletter>

LIBRARY EVENTS

Lunch with a Council Member

January 10, 2023

Noon - 1pm

Kick off the New Year and join the conversation with Council Member **Rachel Lord**. Bring your questions and topics for discussion and enjoy lunch over Zoom.



February 14: Caroline Venuti

Virtual Author Talks

Join us online from 10-11am for a virtual talk with these three authors in January.

- **December 6:** Geraldine Brooks, author of *March*, *People of the Book*, and others.
- **December 10:** Frederick Backman, author of *The Winners*.
- **December 14:** Nicole Eustace, author of *A Story of Murder and Indigenous Justice in Early America*.

Art in the Library : January - March

Incredible acrylic and graphite mixed media paintings on exhibit by *Counsel Langley*.



Happy New Year
from the
Homer Public Library!

Check out the complete Line-up
of Library programs



Homer Public Library
500 Hazel Street - (907) 235-3180
circ@ci.homer.ak.us
www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/library

Community Corner

What's happening around the City of Homer

Annual Christmas Tree Lighting

Santa arrived in style atop the HVFD Fire Engine for the annual tree lighting at Homer Chamber of Commerce on December 2nd. The whole crew pitched in to decorate Engine 2 for the big event.



Chamber President Brad Anderson said, "there were many wonderful moments from that event. Our conference room was also full of kids making ornaments and writing letters to Santa. We love doing these kind of activities that bring the community together and build some memories for the kids. "

Thanks to everyone who made this a fun and successful event for the community!

Winter Fun on Beluga Lake

From ice skating to fat tire biking, ice fishing and drifting, Beluga Lake is the place to slide around and have some fun this winter. Broom Ball groups have been meeting on the lake to play, too. So, get outside with your winter gear, a big thermos of hot cocoa and have some fun!



Surplus Equipment Sale - January 2023

The City is having a Surplus Sale!

Check out the list of great items including items such as outdoor gear, vehicles, heavy duty equipment, and other miscellaneous items.

Sealed bids for City surplus equipment will be received by the City Clerk's Office at City Hall, 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, until 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 12, 2023. All bidders must submit a City of Homer Plan Holders Registration form to be on the Plan Holders List and to be considered responsive.

Sealed bids will be publicly opened and read on Friday, January 13, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.



SCAN
CODE
FOR
SURPLUS
SALE
INFO

Community Recreation

<https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/com-rec>



Mountainfilm on Tour - January 21

Mountainfilm on Tour visits Homer, Alaska on Saturday, January 21st 2023 at the Homer High Mariner Theater. Join us for an evening of inspiring and captivating films handpicked from the Mountainfilm festival in Telluride, Colorado.

Founded in 1979, Mountainfilm is one of America's longest-running film festivals and celebrates stories of indomitable spirit and aims to inspire audiences through film, art and ideas. This is the 24th year playing in Homer!

Doors open at 6pm; Show starts at 7pm. Tickets available in advance at Homer Bookstore or at the door the night of the show.



NEED GEAR?

CHECK IT OUT

AT THE

HOMER PUBLIC LIBRARY!



Mark Your
Calendar
for
Winter
Carnival
&
Parade!



Economic Development

Cities of Opportunity

Wonder why its hard to find new employees? Forget what you're hearing on the national news; Alaska has some specific challenges. Alaska's workforce is ageing and losing working age population – that's people aged 20-64. Some 8,000 workers moved out of state or aged out of the work force in the last 10 years, while the state gained more than 40,000 folks 65 and older... some because they moved here, and some because they aged in place.

On the Kenai Peninsula, our working age population is stable – we have not lost or gained folks between the ages 20-64. Although it's great we're not losing people, when you consider the growth in many industries from health care to boat building, we are not attracting the necessary new workers to the Kenai Peninsula. Employers in some trades are finding they need to provide training and begin recruiting new employees locally – such as from Homer High. A local example is the series of classes the [Homer Marine Trades Association](#) provides at the High School, and programs at the college.

Alaska has a challenge ahead; lower 48 wages have gone up and Alaska wages are not as attractive. Workers are looking for quality of life:

- How are the local schools, parks and recreation amenities?
- What's the availability of social activities, childcare, housing, etc.?

There are two takeaways here: Its time to look ahead and consider encouraging local youth to stay or return to Homer as young adults, and if our community needs to recruit workers from the lower 48, what investments are needed so our community is a place young workers can succeed? These are a just a few of the topics that will be covered in January's Industry Outlook Forum. Hope to see you there.



KPEDD
KENAI PENINSULA ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

You are invited...
JANUARY 5
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**INDUSTRY
OUTLOOK FORUM**

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
HOMER, ALASKA

TO REGISTER, PLEASE VISIT:
WWW.KPEDD.ORG

Featuring a Homer Panel of experts to discuss:

- Childcare
- Housing
- Transportation
- The future for the community of Homer

Redevelopment Training

Economic Development Manager Julie Engebretsen attended a two day training from the *International Economic Development Council on Real Estate Development and Reuse*. While Homer does not see a lot of new commercial construction, remodeling and reusing existing buildings is common in Homer – City Hall started out as a bank, and the college campus includes part of the old post office building. Understanding how city policies and regulations affect redevelopment costs will help the City update these tools and support real estate redevelopment in our community. The course also touched on public private partnership and the RFP/RFQ process for project development. Ms. Engebretsen intends to incorporate lessons learned from the class with city leases and development opportunities.

Alaska Municipal League Winter Conference / DOT Visit

Julie Engebretsen and Special Projects Coordinator Jenny Carroll traveled to attend part of the AML Conference in early December. While in Anchorage, they met with staff from DOT to discuss a range of topics including a grant opportunity to improve the Homer Airport Terminal. The city owns the building, and has a long term airport lease for the property. Like any building, the terminal needs long term investment to maintain the building and contain operating costs.

The City would like to leverage grant funds to construct an ADA restroom, address walkway problems, upgrade the air handling system, paint the exterior, and make energy improvements and other long term investments. The goal is to apply for a grant with applications due in fall 2023.

Photo: Left to right, Jenny Carroll and Julie Engebretsen at the State of Alaska DOT & PF Central Region office.



Fire Department



Enroll Now for the Firefighter -1 Training Course

The Firefighter I Training Course is set for start mid to late February. This class will be conveniently held nights and weekends class and will include an online component. Upon completion candidates will be trained and ready to respond to interior firefighting operations, vehicle extrication, hazardous materials operations, and wildland firefighting. This class will certify you as a State of Alaska FF1, which is a great start to a new career path, or to so you can help the community in time of need.

Start the New Year off with New Adventure!

Contact Deputy Chief Joe Kahles at 907-299-5618 for more information and to sign up for the February FF1 Course.





Coastal Bluff Development

The City regulates development activity and structures in areas affected by slopes, bluffs, ravines, and the coastal edge, and provides the means for additional review and protection to encourage safe and orderly growth to promote the health, welfare and safety of Homer residents. Any development activity that happens on lots with average slopes of 15% or greater on bluffs, coastal edge and ravines, or are located within 40-feet of the top of within 15-feet of the toe of a steep slope, bluff, coastal edge or ravine are subject to additional review and trigger slope development standards listed in the Homer City Code. These additional standards can affect setbacks and add required elements to the project's site plan. The Planning department reviews proposed development to ensure that all Code requirements are met.

In December, the Alaska Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys (DGGS) published the Coastal Bluff Stability Assessment for Homer, Alaska. This DGGS study provides an overview of stability in coastal bluffs using aerial imagery and modern elevation data. Additionally, the study includes graphic representation of shoreline change from 1951 to 2019 and a coastal bluff stability. More information can be found on the [Coastal Bluff Information webpage](#).

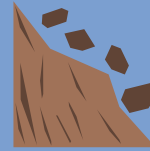


Homer is StormReady!

Homer achieved its National Weather Service StormReady Community Certification confirming our commitment to implement systems needed to protect lives and property when storms occur. Special Projects and Communications Coordinator Jenny Carroll and Associate Planner Bella Vaz worked with the National Weather Service to have Homer certified as StormReady, adding to our TsunamiReady certification. This program works to protect communities from the effects of severe weather through advanced planning, education and awareness. StormReady promotes hazard preparedness to improve public safety before, during and after weather-related emergencies.

To be recognized as StormReady, a community must maintain a 24-hour warning point and support emergency operations center (EOC) operations; support ongoing education and outreach; support more than one way of receiving warnings and alerting the public; and develop a formal emergency operations plan and hold annual exercises. The recognition program is valid for four years and can be renewed.

LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN



LANDSLIDE

Landslides are physical events that happen when the land literally moves; i.e., mudslides, rockslides, debris avalanches and rock falls. Most often, they can happen as a result of weather related factors that cause a shift in the landscape. Improper development of sloping ground or the creation of cut-and-fill slopes in areas of unstable conditions are also prime landslide areas.

Hillsides and mountainous areas are most susceptible to landslides depending on variations in the geology, topography, vegetation and weather.

Landslides can happen when other hazards occur:

- Earthquakes can trigger rock falls and slides.
- Intense or prolonged precipitation that causes flooding can saturate slopes and cause failures leading to landslides.
 - Heavy rainfall
 - Snowmelt
 - Changes to groundwater levels
 - Surface water level changes along coast lines, earth dams and banks of lakes.
- Wildfires
- Stream erosion
- Saturation by water

Where are landslides likely to happen?

- Mountainous or hilly terrain with slopes greater than 20 degrees.
- In Homer, bluffs running between Skyline Drive and East End Road, and on the west end of the west end of the city, just south of the Sterling Highway (Bluff Point).

History of Landslides in Homer

At least one severe landslide occurred in Homer above Kachemak following the Great Alaskan Earthquake in 1964. Notable landslides documented since the 2010 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan include:

- 2013: Bear Creek Drive saw a 16-foot mudslide when heavy rains saturated the narrow Bear Creek Canyon. A disaster declaration was made for several rain-soaked areas in the Kenai Peninsula Borough.
- 2015: A 100-foot section of Kachemak Drive was closed a half mile up the hill from Homer Spit Road to the top of the hill near the Homer Airport pushing trees and debris into Mud Bay.

Probability of landslides?

Approximately 17% (1,504 acres) of Homer is in this hazard area. Shallow landslides can occur at any time, but are more likely to happen when the ground is fully saturated. Deep-seated landslides typically follow major storm events or severe winter storm conditions that are likely to occur in the City of Homer every 2 to 7 years.

Police Department



Dave Shealy Celebrates 25 years

Homer's finest gathered to celebrate 25 years with Sergeant Dave Shealy on Friday, December 9th. Chief Mark Robl hosted the event to congratulate and celebrate this important milestone for Dave. We're trying to keep him around another 5! We all thank Dave for his commitment to excellence, the citizens of Homer and making our community a better place.



Swearing In Officer Campuzano

Chief Robl got to swear in our newest Officer, Evangelina Campuzano on December 15th. Evangelina started with the HPD in our dispatch center this summer and just returned from 17 of the best weeks of her life, stuck on an island at the police academy. Evangelina comes to us from the US Navy where she served as Master at Arms for the last 10 years. Fun fact, she's also an accomplished and legit chocolatier and makes a blueberry air-biscuit that you wouldn't believe. Congratulations Officer Campuzano!

Life Saver Awards

On August 20th, Sgt. Sean Perry and Lt. Ryan Browning responded to a single vehicle collision in the Homer area. The driver was unresponsive and agonal breathing. Sgt. Perry and Lt. Browning were able to extricate the driver from the vehicle, which was approximately 10' down a steep embankment in the water, and began life saving measures and CPR on the side of the roadway until medics arrived.

On September 16th, Sgt. Perry and Sgt. Dave Shealy responded to a medical call where the patient was unresponsive, wasn't breathing and was turning blue. Upon arrival, both Sgt's began life saving measures and CPR prior to medics arriving and taking over.

In both cases, the patients survived. We'd like to acknowledge our amazing team of Homer Volunteer Fire Department medics whom we work with very closely. Without them, these two citizens would have probably met a very different fate. Thank you all for your commitment to community.



Lt. Ryan Browning, Sgt. Sean Perry and Sgt. Dave Shealy



Tuyanitun: Tuggeht

Designed by Ninilchik Village Tribal member and artist Argent Kvasnikoff, this public art sculpture (pronounced too-yan-eee-toon : to-get) was installed in October, 2022 to anchor a wider, upcoming revamp of Bishop's Beach Park and Pavillion. Large boulders have been placed around the base of the sculpture for added effect.

The sculpture is a community partnership between the Ninilchik Village Tribe, the City of Homer, Alaska Maritime National Refuge and Bunnell Street Arts Center to tell the story of this place, Homer, that occupies unceded Indigenous lands.

[Click here to Learn more about Tuyanitun: Tuggeht](#)

City Staff Celebrate the Holidays Together

For the first time since before the pandemic, City staff gathered together to celebrate the holidays. The last time the group had a holiday party was in 2019. Fun was had by one and all at Land's End on December 17th. Thanks to those who came out to take part in the holiday festivities. It was nice to see everyone having a good time outside of work and catching up. We even had a surprise performance by Luna Ursis with Michelle Morton and Josh Thomas played guitar and harp music.



Ryan Foster (L) with his wife Sasha, and Jenny Carroll (R).



Christine Drais (L) gets the crowd to vote on the Ugly Sweaters Contest. The ugly sweater-wearing contestants lined up to take on the cheers and laughs to see who would be crowned "Tackiest", "Ugly", "Uglier" and "Ugliest". (L-R) Amber Baldus, Melissa Jacobsen, Kevin Co, Jenny Carroll, Kim Zook, Jan Keiser and Cole Jacobsen; not picture, Angie Kalugin won "Tackiest" in her green tinsel jacket with ornaments! The four winners went home with a nice prize and new award for their trophy case. They were all pretty ugly if you ask me!



A cheery table of party people; L-R: Gavin Spudwills, Aaron Glidden, Rachel Tussey-Spudwills and Kevin Co

PUBLIC SAFETY NOTES

"Public Safety" covers a lot of areas - from health and wellness to fire safety, safe driving practices and winter tips for safe travel. Don't forget our pets too! Each month we strive to provide relevant information to help you live well and stay healthy. If you have a tip to share, please let us know - email us.

Be Prepared with a Winter Car Emergency Kit

Driving in winter weather could leave you stranded, but an emergency car kit can get you back on the road or keep you safe until help arrives.

If you can, it's best to stay off the roads during hazardous weather whenever possible. The **National Weather Service** suggests to have a few things on hand and if you have to venture out:

- Battery booster cables
- Ice scraper and a portable shovel
- Basic first aid kit
- Emergency kit - roadside triangles, flashlights and back up batteries, reflective vest.
- Portable cell phone charger
- Extra blankets, snow boots, snow pants, food and water
- Tow strap or rope



Have you gotten your flu shot yet?

The traditional CDC flu season runs from October to May. This season started off with low activities, yet more than previous seasons at this time.

Nationally, and locally, there have been cases of influenza and other respiratory viruses going around. Flu shots are available at local pharmacies or a health provider.

Public Works



PW Celebrates the Holidays

Public Works crews gathered to celebrate the holidays over a home cooked lunch with all the trimmings by Director Jan Keiser and a couple meat-cooking elves. The annual white elephant gift exchange was a lot of fun and everyone ended up with a smile to show for it.

Winter is a busy time for the Public Works team, so a chance to stop and share a meal together is always welcome and good for morale.

Thank you PW Team for all you do all year round!



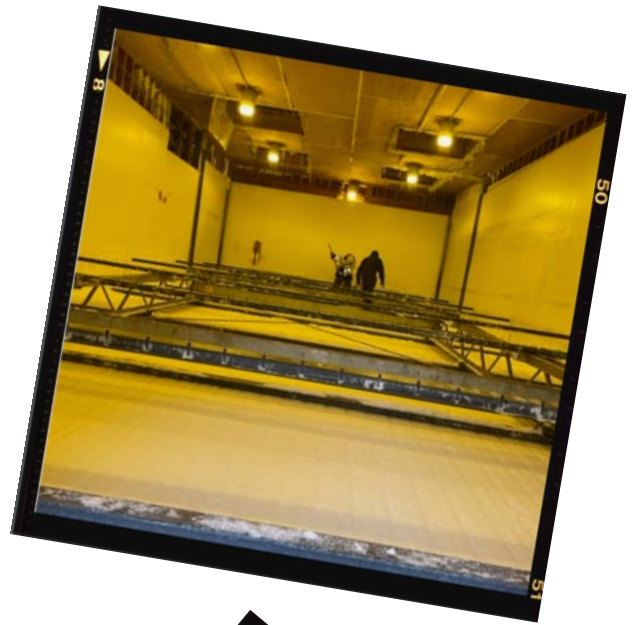
Port & Harbor



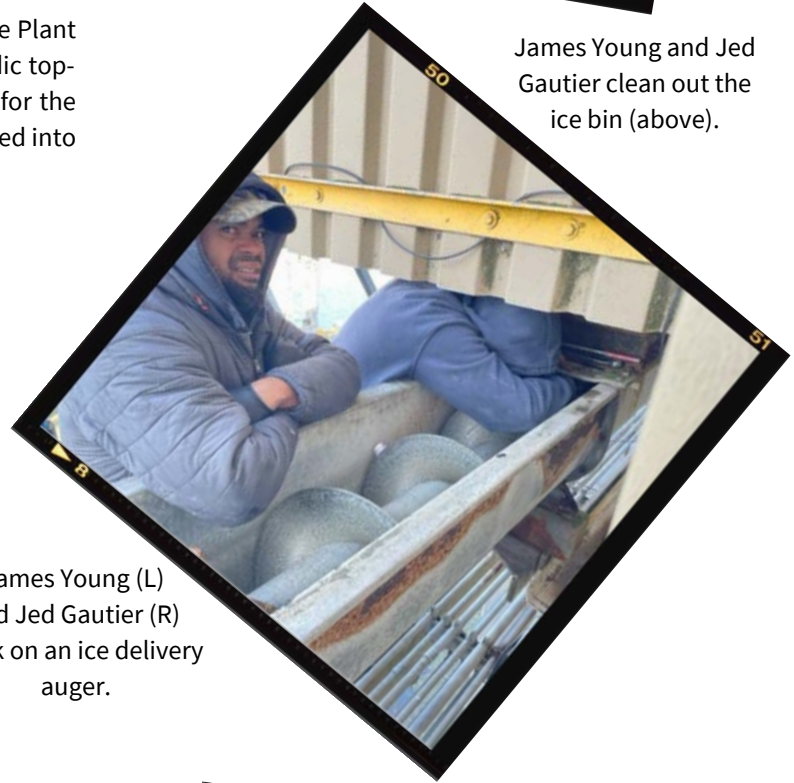
Winter Maintenance at the Fish Dock & Ice Plant

The City Ice Plant closed down for the season on November 15th, which means the Fish Dock Operators have been knocking out maintenance tasks left and right. Cranes are getting a tune-up, High Mast Lights are coming down to have a few bulbs replaced, and once the ice melted out, the ice bin was given a thorough scrub down.

We're also taking on bigger projects-- the ammonia in the Ice Plant system has been working hard for over 40 years, with periodic top-offs. We're getting a full replacement of ammonia this year for the first time. The used ammonia is safely disposed of and recycled into fertilizer for crops.



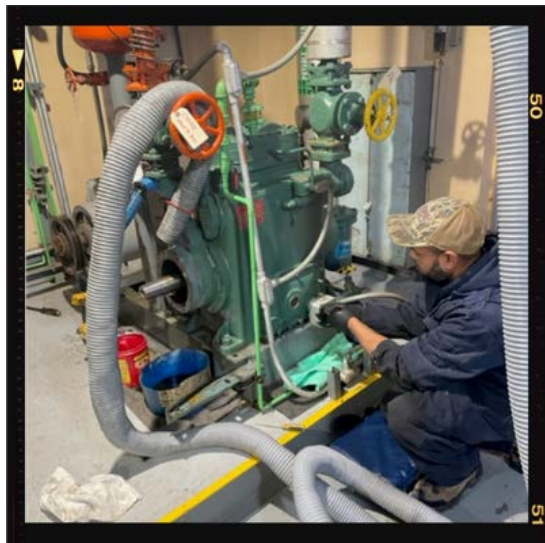
James Young and Jed Gautier clean out the ice bin (above).



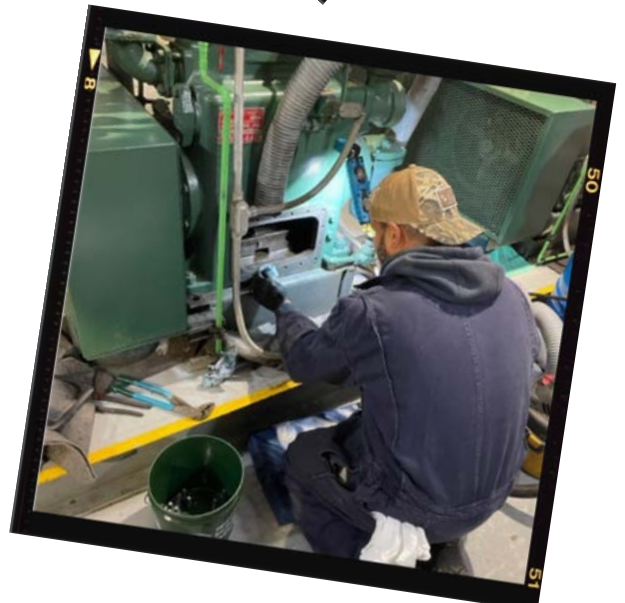
James Young (L) and Jed Gautier (R) work on an ice delivery auger.



High Mast Lights lowered to replace bulbs.



James Young services a compressor.



Welcome Aboard

Matthew Dominguez IT Support Specialist



This Phoenix, AZ transplant moved to Alaska in March of 2022. Matt worked for a large school district in Phoenix as PC/Network Tech for seven years. His main responsibilities were

to build and maintain servers and mentor the junior techs. He studies Network Engineering at DeVry University. Prior to his time as a 'tech guy', Matt served in the Army for eight years as an Infantryman. Some of his hobbies are fishing, hunting, and exploring with his dog.



December Anniversaries

We would like to recognize City staff members with anniversaries this month. Thank you for the dedication, commitment and service you've provided the City and taxpayers of Homer over the years. You all are an integral part of what makes the City of Homer a great place to work and the community.

Mark Robl	Police	38 Years
Bryan Hawkins	Port	23 Years
Todd Cook	Public Works	13 Years
Sean Perry	Police	8 Years
Mike Zelinski	Public Works	8 Years
Josh Mershon	Port	3 Years
Regina Johanos	Library	2 Years
Jenna Luchaco	Public Works	1 Year
Del Masterhan	Port	1 Year

The City of Homer has current Job Openings!

Sign up for Job Alerts or Apply Online at:
cityofhomer.ak.applicantpro.com/jobs

Meet the Staff



This section is to highlight staff achievements, promotions, retirements, departures and new hires to the City's workforce.

Homer Police Officer Joe Eshom



Joe Eshom joined the Homer Police Department earlier this year. He started his law enforcement career with Phoenix Police Department back in 2004. From there, Joe went to the King County, WA Sheriff's office where he worked in the ATF Violent Crimes Task Force until he and his family felt the pull of Alaska. Joe is also United States Marine Corp veteran where he served four years. Everyone say "hi" to Joe. We're glad you're here! This photo was taken at the December 15 swearing in of Officer Evangelina Campuzano, left.

Your Pics



Bethany Christman, Public Works Administrative Assistant, with her kids in front of City Hall sharing their holiday spirit!



Aaron Yeaton, Public Works GIS Technician.

City of Homer Roster

Rob Dumouchel, City Manager
Melissa Jacobsen, MMC, City Clerk/Deputy Director of Administration
Andrea Browning, Personnel Director
Rick Abboud, City Planner
Mark Robl, Chief of Police
Mark Kirko, Fire Chief
Bryan Hawkins, Port Director/Harbormaster
Elizabeth Walton, Finance Director
Jan Keiser, Public Works Director/City Engineer
Dave Berry, Library and IT Director
Mike Illg, Community Recreation Manager
Julie Engebretsen, Economic Development Manager

Mayor - Ken Castner (2024)

City Council

Donna Aderhold (2024)
Jason Davis (2025)
Shelley Erickson (2024)
Storm P. Hansen-Cavasos (2025)
Rachel Lord (2023)
Caroline Venuti (2023)

Commissions & Boards

ADA Advisory Board
Economic Development Advisory Commission
Library Advisory Board
Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission
Planning Commission
Port and Harbor Advisory Commission

MUNICIPAL ART COLLECTION

Learn more about the municipal art collection at:
<https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/prac/city-homer-municipal-art-collection>

"Homer's Where the Heart Is"



Next time you visit Homer City Hall, be sure to take in this beautiful painting by Cheri Goverston Greer of 1992, that is located in the lobby. From eagles, and puffin to moose and sea otter, you'll recognize all the heartwarming features of Homer.

STAY CONNECTED WITH CITY COUNCIL

Go to: [cityofhomer-ak.gov/cityclerk/stay-connected-city-council](https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/cityclerk/stay-connected-city-council). Here you will find instructions on how to listen, provide testimony and participate in the meetings via Zoom.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

January

- | | | |
|----|--------|--|
| 4 | 5:30pm | Planning Commission Worksession - <i>Canceled</i> |
| | 6:30pm | Planning Commission Regular Meeting |
| 9 | 4:00pm | City Council Worksession |
| | 5:00pm | City Council Committee of the Whole |
| | 6:00pm | City Council Regular Meeting |
| 10 | 6:00pm | Economic Development Advisory Commission Regular Meeting |
| 16 | 5:30pm | Port & Harbor Advisory Commission Worksession |
| 17 | 5:30pm | Library Advisory Board Regular Meeting |
| 18 | 5:30pm | Planning Commission Worksession |
| | 6:30pm | Planning Commission Regular Meeting |
| 23 | 5:00pm | City Council Committee of the Whole |
| | 6:00pm | City Council Regular Meeting |
| 25 | 5:00pm | Port & Harbor Advisory Commission Regular Meeting |

JOIN OUR TEAM

The City of Homer has current Job Openings. Sign up for Job Alerts or Apply Online at: [cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs](https://www.cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs)

CURRENT JOB LISTINGS

- Public Safety Dispatcher I, Full-time
- Community Jail Officer, Part-time
- Temporary Firefighter/EMT-Basic/EMT-Advanced



City of Homer

491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska 99603
907-235-8121

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City of Homer

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Office of the City Manager

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(f) 907-235-3148

Memorandum

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
FROM: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager
DATE: November 10, 2022
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for November 14, 2022 Council Meeting

Main Street Sidewalk Construction

On November 7th, we met for a frosty sidewalk ribbon cutting celebrating the completion of the Main Street sidewalk. We're all looking forward to our next big city sidewalk project!



Housing Outreach Meeting and Survey

The Special Projects Team, along with Planning and Economic Development, are developing a housing public engagement opportunity for early next year. This project will further the Council priority of “housing challenges” and contribute to the priorities of updating the comprehensive plan and the zoning code. We are looking to give the public a forum to voice housing concerns, and we also want to pair the in-person event with a survey. We expect that this exercise will give us some great data to share with the team ultimately selected to assist the City with the comprehensive plan and zoning code updates.

AML Housing Task Force

I recently nominated Special Projects Coordinator Ryan Foster to the Alaska Municipal League's (AML) housing task force (with a child-care subgroup). The intent is to gather data and information from AML members about their housing issues, processes, and potential solutions. As this conversation picks up across the state (and nation), the task force will work through solutions for local governments, or positions to advance statewide solutions.

At-Large Dog Ordinance

At the October 24th meeting, Council postponed ordinance 22-72 which proposed edits to Homer City Code Title 20 Animals. Our contracted Animal Shelter Director and Control Officer provided comments that encouraged us to reevaluate the proposal. I worked with the Animal Shelter Director and Councilmembers Venuti and Erikson to develop a substitute which instead focuses on Homer City Code Title 19 Parks, Campgrounds, and Public Places. The substitute will go to PARCAC this month before coming back to Council for review.

CTP and TAP Project Submissions

Every three years, the State of Alaska DOT&PF issues a call for projects for two competitive grant programs: the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) for non-motorized transportation projects and Community Transportation Program (CTP) for road surface projects. City staff recently submitted several high priority projects to the first phase of the process, in which we give the State notice of our intent to apply. Our TAP project nominations included three construction projects: Ben Walters Lane Sidewalk, Svedlund/Herndon Street Sidewalk, and the Homer All-Ages and Abilities Pedestrian Pathway; and one planning project: Kachemak Drive Separated Pathway. CTP project nominations included two construction projects: Main Street Rehabilitation and Heath Street Rehabilitation and one planning project: Spit Road Erosion Mitigation. State DOT will review all submissions for eligibility and competitiveness, and by February 2023 will invite full grant proposals for no more than two projects per community. All projects that move forward require a *minimum* local match of 9.03%, which must be secured by a formal match agreement. I will keep you updated if any of our projects advance to the application phase.

Local Election Certification Update from the Clerk's Office

At the October 10th Council meeting, Council Member Davis addressed the City's method of calculating the percentage of vote received by each candidate in vote-for-two races produces approximately one half the percentage of the vote actually received, resulting in what appears to be a low level of support for the winning candidates. He suggested an additional column on the Certificate of Election that shows the percentage of total ballots cast received by each candidate that provides a much more easily comprehensible estimate of the overall level of support for each candidate (and, arguably, if a decision not to vote in a race is viewed as a de facto vote, it provides a perfectly accurate percentage). For example in the most recent election, the percent support reported for both winning candidates using this methodology would be above 60% rather than in the low 30's. City Clerk's office staff is working on an update the Certificate of Election that would provide more comprehensive summary of the Canvass Board's work and is amenable to including this additional percentage of total ballots cast received by each candidate as suggested by Council Member Davis.

Kenai Peninsula City Manager Symposium

I hosted a meeting of all the city managers on the Kenai Peninsula on November 1st. We discussed items of regional interest and shared experiences and best practices for various challenges faced by city managers in Alaska.



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the City Manager

491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

citymanager@cityofhomer-ak.gov

(p) 907-235-8121 x2222

(f) 907-235-3148

Memorandum

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
FROM: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager
DATE: November 23, 2022
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for November 28, 2022 Council Meeting

Sulfur Export Project

Earlier this year, approximately 20,000 tons of crushed bulk sulfur were delivered by truck to the cargo storage terminal on Freight Dock Road. Under current market conditions, this is about \$4M worth of materials. The sulfur was stored on the Chip Pad while the owners of the materials waited for a vessel and the right market conditions to export them. The sulfur is off to Mexico for use in fertilizer products. This past week, North Star Stevedoring and Kar-a-Van Transport loaded approximately 10,400 bags onto the M/V TBC *Praise*. The stevedoring effort included 54 longshoremen, split into two crews, running 12-hour shifts, 24/7 until the loading was complete. The Port Enterprise will benefit from this project in the form of wharfage, dockage, and storage costs that are estimated to total over \$215,000.



Transportation Plan Update

Economic Development Manager Julie Engebretsen and contractor Brad Parsons (ILC) have been busy over the past few weeks, presenting to Homer High School students, attending a luncheon at the Senior Center, conducting interviews with individuals with disabilities, and talking with taxi companies.

Special thanks to Councilwoman Shelly Erickson for helping staff connect with truck and bus drivers. Julie Engebretsen and Jan Keiser held two focus group sessions for commercial drivers. Staff met with seven attendees, including the manager of Lynden Transport in Soldotna, the Homer Boat Yard that moves fishing vessels to and from the Homer Spit, gravel trucks and equipment movers, and fuel trucks. A common theme is the difficulty of turning large rigs through Homer’s busy intersections, pictured below left, and planning for the long term movement of freight and materials to support the southern peninsula.



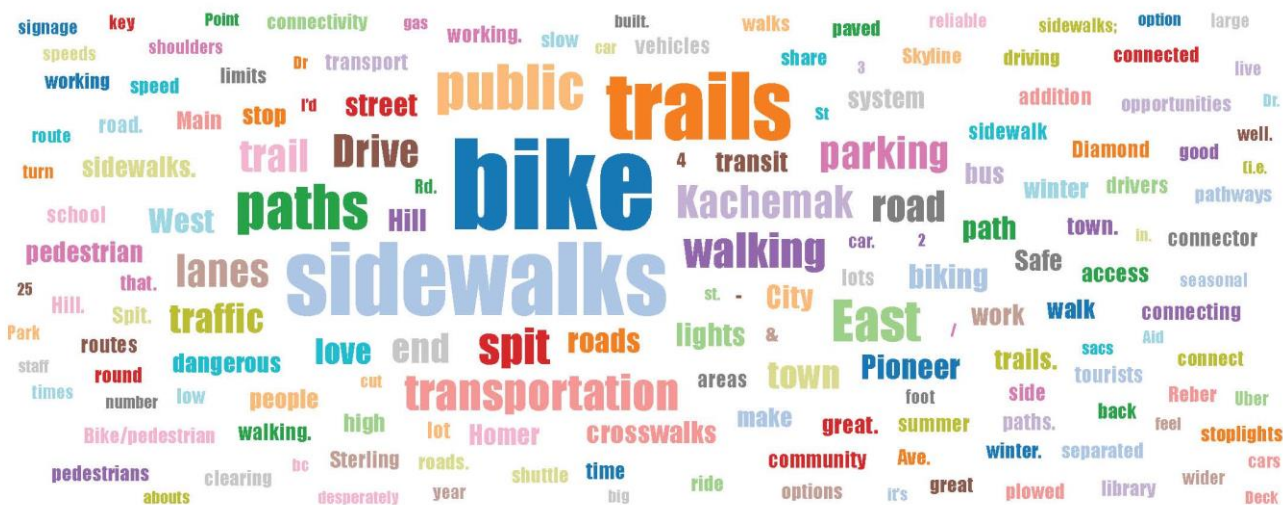
Large rig turning right on East End Rd. from Lake Street.



November 9th Transportation Plan Meeting at KBC.

City staff, and consultant Kinney Engineering, held a public meeting at the college on November 9th, above right. About 25 members of the public turned out to learn about the survey results so far and comment on draft goals.

To date, 283 survey responses and 450 map comments have been received. Already, common themes have emerged, as seen below, that will help with priorities. Both surveys will close on Wednesday the 23rd, right before Thanksgiving. Over the holidays, general comments can be submitted via the project website. In the first quarter of 2023, outreach will resume as the draft plan comes together.



1st Quarter Sales Tax Revenues

Last week, the Kenai Peninsula Posted the taxable sales numbers for the first quarter of FY23 (third quarter of calendar year 2022), and we've set another record for the City of Homer. Taxable sales are reported at \$99,553,824, a \$6M increase over last year. The City expects to receive approximately \$4.8M in revenue which will be shared between the General Fund, HART, HAWSP, and the Police Station.

CTP and TAP Project Submission Update

Last week, the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) notified us that the following City of Homer non-motorized transportation projects meet the initial eligibility requirements and may be invited to submit a full application for funding under the State's Transportation Alternatives Program: Ben Walters Lane Sidewalk, Svedlund/Herndon Sidewalks, the Homer All Ages & Abilities Pedestrian Pathway and the Kachemak Drive Non-motorized Pathway. Meeting eligibility requirements is the first step in the project application process. The next steps are to wait for the State to publish timelines and guidelines for submitting a full project application and to work with our Regional DOT&PF planner to build project scopes and cost estimates. We have yet not heard back on the three road surface projects submitted for Community Transportation Program eligibility yet. I will keep you updated as the process progresses.

Borough-wide Joint Information System Review

Last week, Jenny Carroll, as the City's Public Information Officer, met with other emergency response personnel at the Kenai River Center in Soldotna to help update the Borough-wide Joint Information System (JIS). A JIS is a mechanism for affected and participating organizations to integrate and coordinate incident information to ensure timely, accurate, accessible, and consistent messaging during a crisis. The workshop, hosted by the Kenai Peninsula Borough Office of Emergency Management, gave an overview of the current Borough-wide Joint Information System Agreement (last updated in 2016), how it can be called upon and solicited recommendations on how the JIS Agreement could be updated and improved after two large two scale events: the Swan Lake Wildfire and the Seward landslide near Lowell Point. A final draft of the JIS Agreement will be distributed to local, Tribal, state, federal, and nongovernment partners for formal approval by their governing bodies. While the City, fortunately, has not had to call on area partners to activate the JIS, we are happy the Kenai Peninsula Borough's Emergency Operating Plan includes this formal mechanism for information gathering and sharing, which is vitally important when an incident surpasses local resources and capabilities.

Special Assessment District Regulation Review

Special Assessment Districts have been a challenge for the City in many different ways. I have tasked Special Project Coordinator Ryan Foster with an in-depth review of code, past and current practices, processes, etc. to help us reform the program to ensure it is useful for the public and reasonable for staff to manage across the multi-decade lifespan of many Districts. This project is in its early stages, but I expect we will come to Council next year with a work session, and more than likely, a proposal to update parts of City code.

Attachments: November & December Employee Anniversaries
KPEDD Industry Outlook Forum Save the Date Flyer

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION 2023 Calendar

	AGENDA DEADLINE	MEETING	CITY COUNCIL MEETING FOR REPORT*	ANNUAL TOPICS/EVENTS
JANUARY	Wednesday 1/4 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 1/10 6:00 p.m.	Monday 1/23 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Budget Review/Develop Requests *may be n/a during non-budget years • Land Allocation Plan Review
FEBRUARY	Wednesday 2/8 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 2/14 6:00 p.m.	Monday 2/27 6:00 p.m.	
MARCH	Wednesday 3/8 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 3/14 6:00 p.m.	Tuesday 3/28 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clerk Reappointment Notices Sent Out • Update from Public Works Director • KPEDD CEDS Review
APRIL	Wednesday 4/5 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 4/11 6:00 p.m.	Monday 4/24 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terms Expire April 1st • Advisory Body Training Worksession • Election of EDC Officers
MAY	Wednesday 5/3 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 5/9 6:00 p.m.	Monday 5/22 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive Plan Review • Annual Review of Commission's Policies
JUNE	Wednesday 6/7 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 6/13 6:00 p.m.	Monday 6/26 6:00 p.m.	
JULY	No Regular Meeting			
AUGUST	Wednesday 8/2 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 8/8 6:00 p.m.	Monday 8/14 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital Improvement Plan Review • Update from Public Works Director
SEPTEMBER	Wednesday 9/6 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 9/12 6:00 p.m.	Monday 9/25 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce Development Speaker
OCTOBER	Wednesday 10/4 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 10/10 6:00 p.m.	Monday 10/23 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Review of EDC's Strategic Plan/Goals & BR&E
NOVEMBER	Wednesday 11/8 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 11/14 6:00 p.m.	Monday 11/27 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chamber's Annual Presentation to EDC • Approve Meeting Schedule for Upcoming Year
DECEMBER	No Regular Meeting			

*The Commission's opportunity to give their report to City Council is scheduled for the Council's regular meeting following the Commission's regular meeting, under Agenda Item 8 – Announcements/ Presentations/ Borough Report/Commission Reports.