



MAYOR & COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

June 9, 2026

Subject: Introduction of the Office of Community and Economic Impact
(City Wide)

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Issue – Time has been set aside to introduce and discuss the creation of the Office of Community and Economic Impact.

City Manager's Office Recommendation – No action is required by the Mayor and Council as part of the Study Session item; however, the Mayor and Council may provide feedback and direction on the update.

Present Consideration(s) – I am establishing the Office of Community and Economic Impact (OCEI), a new division of the City Manager's Office designed to integrate and advance the City's efforts to create a more resilient, equitable, prosperous, and culturally vibrant Tucson. The creation of this office is the direct result of conversations we have had, including at this year's Mayor and Council Retreat, our work with the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Program, and community feedback. We have a shared understanding that climate resilience, economic opportunity, cultural vitality, and equity are not separate policy goals, but interconnected drivers of long-term prosperity and quality of life for all Tucsonans.

The Office of Community and Economic Impact brings together key functions that have historically worked across multiple departments and initiatives, including Climate Action, Cultural Affairs, Economic Initiatives, Prosperity Initiative, and Equity Programs. By uniting these functions under a single organizational structure, the City will strengthen collaboration, improve strategic alignment, enhance service delivery, and better position Tucson to address the complex challenges and opportunities facing our community.

The Office will serve as the organizational home for implementation and coordination of several of the City's most important strategic frameworks, including Tucson Resilient Together, Somos Uno, Equity By Design (the newly adopted Equity and Inclusion Action Plan), the Prosperity Initiative, and the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. Together, these plans provide a roadmap for creating a city that is environmentally sustainable, economically competitive, culturally rich, and inclusive in both opportunity and outcomes.

Rather than viewing these priorities as separate work programs, the Office will look for the intersection between these areas and coordinate programs. Improving coordination across these related strategic initiatives will result in innovative new projects, strengthen accountability for plan implementation, align resources, advance data-informed decision making, promote inclusive economic growth that benefits all residents, and enhances collaboration with community groups, educational institutions, business organizations, nonprofits, and other regional partners.

Introduction of the Office Community and Economic Impact (City Wide)

Based on community feedback and staff's work under Mayor Romero's selection for the Bloomberg Harvard program, the City of Tucson is exploring a strategic shift in its economic development approach by investing in innovative programs that directly address poverty and expand pathways to economic mobility. OCEI will continue traditional business retention and attraction efforts and the pursuit of direct foreign investment, particularly from Mexico. However, the City will also create new initiatives that connect residents to employment, nontraditional workforce training, entrepreneurship opportunities, and supportive services that help individuals achieve long-term financial stability. Community survey results consistently identified poverty reduction, affordability, and access to good-paying jobs among Tucson's highest priorities, with residents expressing strong support for programs that create sustainable economic opportunities and improve quality of life for vulnerable populations. This evolving approach recognizes that economic development is most effective when economic success is broadly shared throughout the community. Recent community conversations have also highlighted the importance of aligning economic growth with Tucson Resilient Together and ensuring that economic investments support community health and environmental sustainability. OCEI will work to balance economic development with our community's climate goals.

The Office of Community and Economic Impact represents an important evolution in how the City organizes its work to meet community needs and achieve long-term goals. By bringing together climate action, cultural affairs, prosperity, economic initiatives, and equity under a unified vision, Tucson is creating a stronger framework to build a resilient economy, foster community well-being, and ensure that every resident has the opportunity to thrive. I have appointed Lane Mandle from my office to lead OCEI.

Plan Tucson and other Adopted City Policy Consideration(s) – The creation of the Office of Community and Economic Impact supports *Plan Tucson 2025* under Goal 1: Foster Inclusive, Transparent, Efficient and Equitable City Governance; Goal 2: Support the Development of an Equitable Community; Goal 3: Be a Leader in Carbon Reduction and Resiliency to Extreme Heat and Climate Impacts; Goal 7: Promote the Responsible Management and Use of Water; Goal 8: Promote a Clean Community and Reduce the Harmful Effects of Pollutants in Our Environment; Goal 9: Preserve, Protect, and Enhance Natural Ecosystems and Open Spaces; Goal 10: Preserve and Protect the City's Unique Historic and Archaeological Resources; Goal 11: Foster and Promote Tucson's Arts, Culture, and Heritage; and Goal 12: Strengthen the Local and Regional Economy to Provide Opportunities for All Tucsonans to Thrive. Additionally, the Office will advance Tucson Resilient Together, The Prosperity Initiative, Somos Uno, the CEDS, and Equity By Design.

Financial Considerations – None at this time. All vacancies indicated in the Office of Community and Economic Impact are budgeted for FY27 and have been reallocated to advance these initiatives.

Operating Cost and Maintenance Input – None at this time.

Legal Considerations – None at this time.

Respectfully submitted,



Timothy M. Thomure, P.E. ENV SP
City Manager

Attachment(s): Exhibit 1 – Updated Economic Development Focus Areas
Exhibit 2 – Initial Organizational Chart for OCEI