

June 30, 2025

The Honorable Blaine A. Griffin
President – Cleveland City Council
601 Lakeside Avenue, Room 216
Cleveland, OH 44114

RE: Cleveland Foundation Business Development Growth Grant— Legislation Passed Under Suspension July 9th, 2025

Dear Council President Griffin:

I am writing to ask your support in Introducing and Passing the legislation described below Under Suspension at the City Council Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, July 9, 2025. The purpose of the legislation is as follows:

Authorizing the Director of Economic Development to enter into an agreement with The Cleveland Foundation to apply for, accept, and expend up to \$250,000 in Business Development Growth Grant funds to enhance business attraction efforts and coordination on major development projects. Grant activities will support a single point-of-contact model, streamline interdepartmental processes, and improve regional investment collaboration—all aligned with the city's economic development priorities.

It is critical that this piece of legislation be passed in July rather than in August for the following reasons:

- **Meet Grant Reporting and Spending Timelines:** The funding agreement includes performance and spending benchmarks that begin immediately upon execution. A July 9 passage ensures the city can meet early deliverables and reporting deadlines.
- **Accelerate Critical Economic Initiatives:** Key business attraction efforts—including the single point-of-contact model, a concierge level of service, and improved interdepartmental coordination—are time-sensitive initiatives that need to be in motion for successful rollout in Q3.
- **Signal Commitment to the Business Community:** Prompt action shows the city is serious about reducing barriers to entry and ready to partner with businesses seeking to invest in Cleveland—especially critical for companies evaluating Q3-Q4 expansion timelines.

I appreciate your support and understanding of our interest in moving this project forward in earnest. If you have any questions, please contact me at (216) 664-2204.

Sincerely,



Thomas S. McNair, Director
Department of Economic Development

Copy to: All Members of Council; Patricia J. Britt, City Clerk, Clerk of Council; Ryan M. Puente, Chief of Government Affairs