



**Executive Director's Report
September 2022**

Economic Restructuring:

Active Projects:

753 Broad Street/Lamar Building- PS & L agreement has been executed.

1812 Slaton Street/25- acre mixed-use project. Project Completed. CO issued May 27. 25 apartments have been leased; 9 pre-leased.

1162 Broad Street/hotel developer. HPC approved demo permits pending site plan and revised façade renderings on 11/18/21. Have started possible financing structure conversations with Naman. ZOOM call meeting held 8/19/22. Jeb and I met 8/26/22 to discuss bond schedule.

Assisted the Brunch House with new location.

Assisting Senator Warnock's office with downtown office location.

The Atticus was approved by the Commission on 4/11/22 for 10th & Ellis- 82 units/mixed-use project.

Residence Inn by Marriott approved by Planning Commission (13th Street) 4/11/22 for 125 rooms.

Met with market rate housing developer August 8.

Auben Realty has purchased 822 Broad Street (Pyramid Music).

The James housing project before Planning Commission 9/7/22.

New Business Announcements & Openings:

VTS Nutrition	226 8 th Street
SOE Studio	230 8 th Street
LaCrown Beautique	1036 Broad Street
Augusta Cigar Lounge	722 Broad Street
Corey Johnson Allstate Insurance	701 Greene Street

Ribbon Cuttings:

Augusta Cigar Lounge	9/23 at 11 am
LaCrown Beautique	9/29, time TBA

Other:

HB 469 passed reinstating state historic tax credits for 5 years.

Completed two FY23 Congressionally Directed Spending Requests via Senator Warnock's office:

Façade Program for Blighted Buildings	\$1,320,000
Downtown Enterprise Center	\$2,350,000

Design:

Riverwalk Arches

Contract has been executed with RD Brown in the amount of \$314,000.

Change order in the amount of \$20,234.74 (increased costs of light fixtures).

Submittals and fabrication underway; Completion end of October with a November unveiling.

Blighted/Empty Building Inventory for Broad Street Corridor is completed.

Parks & Recreation has received replacement parts and instructions for SOOFA benches.

DDA/City MOU for Downtown Maintenance-America Relief Funds

MOUs with City and ACE have been executed.

First disbursement has been received from City, and first payment has been made to ACE.

Additional \$500,000 allocated to ACE by Commission for 2023 and 2024.

MOU addendum submitted to City on 8/3/22.

Second Quarterly Report submitted to City 9/2/22.

Monthly Report from ACE is attached.

Design Committee held 8/11/22 with Kirby Glaze to begin discussions on possible structures for the blight removal program. Next meeting scheduled for 9/22/22.

5th Street Wi-Fi

Submitted the project parameters to Dr. Malik and he has given us notice to proceed.

Finalizing lease agreement for rooftop equipment and equipment room.

Agreement has been executed with Tech4Success and payment has been made in the amount of \$5,562.642 to begin the project.

Met with all parties to finalize details on August 26.

Façade Grants:

Received a check from Georgia Power for \$50,000. \$25,000 will be for facades and \$25,000 for blight removal.

On agenda for approval today:

1119 James Brown Blvd.

Georgia Cities Loan Applications

922 Greene Street has been approved by Foundation.

401 Greene Street approved by foundation in the amount of \$200,000.

Promotion:

Website: Phuong is updating Office Inventory Report/updated demographic reports have been added.

Chamber of Commerce Directory ad has been submitted.

Twitter account created (@augusta_DDA) for use on SOOFA Kiosks. Chamber, Destination Augusta, EDA, Augusta Entertainment Complex Twitter accounts will be featured as well.

“Something Cool is Coming Here” circles next to kiosk locations installed by Keen Signs 8/24.

DDA is sponsoring tote bags for Small Business Saturday in November.

Bi-monthly Report #3 and Commission Presentation and 3rd Quarter Press Release are in progress.

Instagram:

963 followers (15.1% increase); 20 posts; 224 stories; 9888 accounts reached; 497 accounts engaged.

Facebook:

727 followers (7.5% increase); 6269 people reached; 492 post engagements.

Website:

925 pageviews (11% increase); 430 sessions (7% increase).

Downtown Highlights, Documents, Goals, News and Projects pages have been updated in the last month.

SOOFA Kiosks:

SOOFA Delivery Call on 8/25.

Shipping on 9/23 with an anticipated October install date.

Permits, locations and site surveys are approved.

Meeting scheduled with Azalea on 9/15 to discuss technology and ads.

Organization:

Back to Business August 11.

Meeting with Interim Director Douse on August 12.

Meeting with Mayor Elect Johnson on August 19.

Meeting with Doug Neal and Ian Mercier on August 23.

Meeting with Cal Wray on August 24.

Choice Neighborhood Grant Meeting on August 25.

Meet Mingle Mesh (Chamber Mixer) on August 25.

Other:

Budget request submitted to City on 8/12.

Budget Hearing held 9/7.

Meeting with Maurice McDowell and Yolanda Greenwood to discuss 5th Street Pedestrian Bridge 9/7.

Governor Kemp Grant Announcement:

Improving Neighborhood Outcomes in Disproportionally Impacted Communities

\$250,000,000 in available funds.

\$2M per application (maybe partially funded).

Eligible uses include parks, green spaces, recreational facilities, sidewalks, streetlights and neighborhood clean-up.

Applications due November 18.

Meeting with City to discuss possible projects on 9/14.