



AGENDA MEMORANDUM
City Council Meeting of August 15, 2023

DATE: August 1, 2023
TO: Peter Zaroni, City Manager
FROM: Mike Culbertson, President & CEO
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Corpus Christi Regional Economic Development Corporation (CCREDC) Quarterly Update to City Council (The second quarter of 2023)

OUTSIDE PRESENTER:

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Title/Position</u> | <u>Organization</u> |
|--------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Mike Culbertson | President & CEO | CCREDC |

BACKGROUND:

The CCREDC provides quarterly updates to the City Council. In accordance with this practice, the CCREDC will update the Council on its activities and the status of the local economy. This presentation covers April – June 2023. Our last presentation was on April 25, 2023.

The Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) economy is still growing from a low of 180,000 jobs in June 2020 to 195,900 now. As a reference, in 2019, the last normal year, the jobs were 192,400. The unemployment rate dropped in April but is now up to 4.6%. The number of jobs went up but the number of people looking for jobs increased more. This can be from students graduating and entering the workforce, citizens that are returning to the workforce after COVID, and/or new residents. We have a challenge in trying to increase the Labor Rate Participation. We believe some of this is hidden by the gig economy. One alarming statistic is that 25% of people 16-24 are not in school nor do they have a job. The housing market is finally settling down. Prices are up but only slightly. The inventory time is now up to 3.5 months, which is trending toward a more balanced market between buyers and sellers.

CCREDC is about securing high paying jobs and diversifying our economy. The sales tax collections are up across the MSA from 2022 with the exception of a couple of smaller cities. The EDC is working on ten major projects that are valued at \$9.1 billion in capital investment and would create 1,561 quality primary jobs. The EDC is looking for other industries to attract to our region. We are still going through the suggested industries from our Targeted Industry Survey we did in 2020 to look at industries that we can target but also re-shoring opportunities. We are coordinating with partners to push a “sense of place” initiative. Your EDC is delivering value to the City and the region.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

CCREDC City Council Q2 2023 Quarterly Update