Date: April 28, 2020

To: Members of the Economic Development Commission, Tulsa Development Authority, Tulsa Industrial Authority, Tulsa Parking Authority, and Tulsa Public Facilities Authority

From: Kian Kamas, Chief of Economic Development, City of Tulsa

Subject: April Update RE: Community and Economic Development Strategic Planning

Current Status
Over the course of April, the HR&A team has been focused on initial outreach with key staff and leadership of each of the entities under review, with over 30 people interviewed during this time. The purpose of these interviews has been to gain a deeper understanding of the history of each group, their key roles within the city’s economic and community development efforts, and opportunities that might exist for greater alignment as we undertake this project.

In May, HR&A expects to continue engagement efforts through three key activities: a one-on-one meeting with Mayor G.T. Bynum, the initial meeting of the project Steering Committee, and through the initiation of stakeholder roundtables. All of these activities will be conducted virtually. As with the staff and leadership interviews, these engagement efforts will allow HR&A to continue to gain an understanding of Tulsa’s current economic and community development efforts, and gaps in the effectiveness, understanding, and outcomes of these efforts. Additionally, the initial meetings of the Steering Committee and the Stakeholder Roundtables will mark the first true external public input, providing an opportunity for us to introduce the project and its goals and objectives to the general public. HR&A expects to engage stakeholder roundtables around philanthropy, the business environment, small business and entrepreneurship needs, the economic development ecosystem, neighborhood needs, real estate development, and workforce development.

Following the engagement efforts planned for May, HR&A intends to move into Tier II of its engagement plan, which will focus on further assessment, visioning, and recommendations. It is hoped by this stage of the project, limited travel and in-person interaction will be allowed, and the HR&A team will be able to make an in-person visit to Tulsa.