WEST DEARBORN DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

DEARBORN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

CITY OF DEARBORN | ABDULLAH H. HAMMOUD, MAYOR

West Dearborn Downtown Development Authority

Joint DDA Board Meeting
October 21, 2026; 10:00 AM

Dearborn Administrative Center, Council Chambers
16901 Michigan Ave, Dearborn MI 48126

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Tahrik Alcodray, Vice Chair Tom Clark, Secretary Treasurer Sam Abbas, Director Christopher Williams, Director Zaineb Hussein, Mayor Abdullah Hammoud, Director Maria Willett

MEMBERS ABSENT: Director Karl Makky, Director Lola Elzein

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: CITY OF DEARBORN: Jordan Twardy (ED), Laura Aceves-Sanchez (ED), Lara Rayshouny (ED), Deena Berri (ED), Rebecca Schultz (Legal), Amanda Sancen (ED), Courtney Skora (Finance), Mohammed Rezq (ED), Chelsea Jones (ED)

GUESTS: None

1. PA57 PRESENTATION

Program Manager, Lara Rayshouny presented a summary of the projects and activities conducted throughout the year.

2. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Tahrik Alcodray at 10:20 AM.

3. ROLL CALL

A roll call was conducted by Secretary Treasurer Sam Abbas. A quorum was present.

4. APPROVAL OF WDDDA MINUTES

A motion to approve the West DDDA meeting minutes of September 16, 2026 was made by Chair Tahrik Alcodray and seconded by Vice Chair Tom Clark. The motion passed unanimously. Minutes approved.

5. REVIEW AND FILING OF TREASURER'S REPORT

Courtney Skora reviewed the financial statement dated September 30th, 2026.

6. WDDDA ACTION ITEMS

a. **Resolution WD 26-10-01: Dearborn Forward Grant Awards:** The WDDDA Board discussed the Dearborn Forward grant applications as presented and evaluated by the Dearborn Forward Review Committee and the Executive Committee. Based on their recommendations, the below applicants received the following:

● $17,000.00 to **The Daily Press Cafe LLC**, located at 22001 Michigan Ave Ste 150, to support key interior work including new flooring, walls, lighting, commercial equipment, service counters, seating, and cohesive branding.

● $17,000.00 to **Modern Greek and Salad Bar**, located at 22001 Michigan Ave #160, to support interior layout upgrades, high-efficiency LED ambient lighting, and mechanical, electrical, and plumbing (MEP) infrastructure improvements.

● $17,000.00 to **TUUM (J&M TUUM LLC)**, located at 1027 Mason St, to support interior upgrades including electrical work, safety and accessibility enhancements, and brand signage.

These awards, totaling $51,000.00 from the Building/Business Incentives account, leave a remaining balance of $74,000.00 for future application rounds in FY2027. All projects must be completed within approximately one year of the approval date and remain contingent upon site plan review, permitting, and obtaining a Certificate of Occupancy.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a) **FY2028 Budget:** Economic Vitality Manager, Laura Aceves-Sanchez, discussed the proposed Fiscal Year 2028 (FY28) draft budgets for both the East, highlighting revenue projections, administrative expenses, and key allocations across maintenance, events, and business incentive programs. This generated board discussion regarding potential revisions to the Dearborn Forward grant structure, marketing strategies, and infrastructure priorities. Laura concluded that a finalized FY28 budget would be brought for a formal vote at the next scheduled meeting.

8. DDDA ACTIVITY UPDATES

a. **Business Liaison Updates & Data Reporting:** Business Liaison, Deena Berri provided updates about two businesses that are for sale/closing which are Bora Bora and Turkish Village. In addition, she shared that two businesses, G Grant and Paisano's, opened recently.

b. **Events Update:** The Special Events and Outreach Manager, Amanda Sancen, provided a recap of signature event programming, reporting strong attendance growth for the Dearborn Summer Market, and Movies in the Park, both of which remained within budget. She highlighted upcoming fall activities, positive feedback from Dearborn Coffee Week, and plans to shift wellness funding

toward long-term pocket park activations. Looking ahead to winter programming, Amanda proposed transitioning future events like the Jingle Bell Bash from single-park setups into a district-wide model across parks, museum grounds, and library spaces to boost foot traffic for surrounding businesses.

9. CITY UPDATES

N/A.

10. CALL TO BOARD

Directors Sam Abbas and Tom Clark raised concerns regarding severe traffic and long delays exiting the West Downtown parking structures. Director Abbas shared a personal experience where a street closure near the Peace Park West area bottlenecked traffic, resulting in over an hour to exit the parking deck. They stressed on the need for better traffic coordination, clearer communication on road closures, and active police or traffic guidance to assist drivers and prevent severe congestion during peak hours.

11. CALL TO AUDIENCE

None.

12. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mayor Abdullah Hammoud and seconded by Chair Tahrik Alcodray at 11:23 AM. A voice vote was passed unanimously. Motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned.