

Michigan Economic Development Corporation Public Comment Policy

Background

Meetings of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation ("MEDC") Executive Committee (the "Committee") are conducted pursuant to the Open Meetings Act MCL 15.261 *et seq.* Accordingly, all Committee meetings are open to the public, and members of the public attending a Committee meeting are permitted to address the Committee under rules established and recorded by the Committee. MCL 15.263(5). To ensure that members of the public have a fair and adequate opportunity to be heard at Committee meetings, and to facilitate the orderly conduct of the meeting, the following public comment policy shall apply at all MEDC Executive Committee meetings:

Guidelines

I. Public Comment

- a. Members of the public must stay within the area designated for the public.
- b. Public comment is limited to the designated public comment period as listed on the agenda. Unless requested by a Committee member, the public has no right to address the Committee during its deliberations on a particular matter.
- c. No individual may make a comment until recognized. Upon being recognized and prior to making their public comment, an individual shall state their name and city of residence.
- d. Each individual public comment must last no longer than three (3) minutes. Individuals making a public comment cannot reserve or yield this time, however, this three (3) minute time limitation may be waived or modified at the discretion of the Chair or at the request of any Committee member.
- e. No individual may be recognized to speak more than once during the designated public comment period.
- f. The public comment period is an opportunity for the public to express their comments regarding any subject matter. Committee members may engage in dialogue with an individual making a public comment, however no Committee member is required to respond to a public comment. In general, the Committee will not respond to comments made during the public comment period unless it becomes necessary to ask a clarifying question, correct a factual error, or provide or request specific factual information.
- g. In an effort to provide the public a full opportunity to be heard, if a Committee member provides a response to an individual's public comment, the time used by the Committee member shall not count against the individual's three (3) minute time limit for making their comment. The three (3) minute time limit for an individual public comment shall be tolled while a Committee member is speaking. However, once an individual has used their three (3) minute period, there is no right to additional time to make a rebuttal or follow-up comment in response to a Committee member's reply unless specifically granted under sub-paragraph (d) above.
- h. Individuals making a public comment shall direct all comments to the Committee and not to staff or other participants.

- i. Groups may designate one or more individuals to speak on their behalf to avoid cumulative comments.
- II. Meeting Minutes
 - a. Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, minutes of the meeting shall consist of the date, time, place, members present, members absent, any decisions made at the meeting open to the public and as appropriate, the purpose or purposes for which a closed session is held. Additionally, the minutes will include a record of all roll call votes taken at the meeting.

Procedure

- I. The presiding member of the Executive Committee has the authority to maintain order during the meeting.
- II. In an effort to maintain order during the public comment period, the presiding member of the Executive Committee is empowered to enforce the public comment policy and may:
 - a. terminate an individual's comment period when the comment exceeds three (3) minutes;
 - b. request that any individual leave the meeting if that individual commits a breach of the peace;
 - c. request the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of an individual when an individual commits a breach of the peace.

Effective: November 14, 2023