CITY OF EAST CHICAGO
ECONOMIC BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
May 22, 2026

BOARD MEMBERS:
Wanda Clark, President
Jesse Avitia, Vice-President
Sharma Frazier, Member

STAFF:
Tracy Ailes
Sandra Favela

Reported by: Peggy S. LaLondé
Fissinger & Associates

Call to Order: 4:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Present: Wanda Clark, Jesse Avitia

Staff Present: Tracy Ailes, Recording Secretary

MS. CLARK: I'd like to call to order the Economic Development Commission meeting of Friday, May 22, 2026.

I need a motion to approve the minutes of Monday, March 23rd, 2026 meeting as written.

MR. AVITIA: Motion to approve.

MS. CLARK: I'll second.

All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

MS. CLARK: Motion carries.

Looking at our agenda, there is no Old Business, we'll move on to New Business.

MS. AILES: So we have four businesses. Unfortunately they are not exactly new businesses, Some are just location change. We have Trinity Thift Store, 3820, El Rincon De Lumar at 3804 Main Street, Affordable Solutions at 904 West Chicago Avenue, and Indiana Lounge at 4728 Indianapolis Boulevard.

Trinity Thrift Store you are familiar with. They were here previously. The people who had the thrift store prior relocated, so the Knight Church as taken over the store. The business owner is

the pastor, who is Jose Gonzalez. This is in a C3, North Harbor Business District. It's non profit thrift store, operating Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and they received their business license on 4/21. From previous discussion, the other half of the building is still Giovanni's Pizza.

Next we have El Ricon De Lumar at 3804 Main Street. This is just a name change. The owner is still Iris Cruz at this location. This is zoned C3, North Harbor Business District. It's a restaurant serving Puerto Rican and American food, operating Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.. They received their business license on 4/24/2026. We are familiar with their location.

Next we have Affordable Solutions at 525 West Chicago Avenue. The owner is Jason Lopez. This is zoned C2, general commercial/retail. It's office space for a cost center and sales energy and internet federal assistance. So the people previously were further down the street on Chicago Avenue and they just relocated to this address. So they are the building that's facing us, that's where they are located.

Lastly we have Indiana Lounge at 4728 Indiana Boulevard. It's a restaurant and tavern. The owner is Juan Hernandez. This is zoned C2, general/commercial, restaurant and tavern. They are operating Sunday through Saturday, 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.. Business license was issued 5/7/26. I'm sure you have seen the photos. They are remodeled inside. They changed from the family restaurant. I don't have that photo, but it's a restaurant on the corner there. So they changed to be more of a restaurant/tavern situation.

MS. CLARK: That's the end of new businesses?

MS. AILES: Yes.

MR. AVITIA: Their license is pretty recent, 5/07.

MS. AILES: Yes.

MR. AVITIA: Is that only one in Indiana?

MS. AILES: I would assume so. So they normally can't have another name, especially with their

liquor license. So they are a restaurant in Indiana, operating as Indiana Lounge.

MS. CLARK: Any other questions?

MR. AVITIA: I looked at the Redevelopment minutes. There is no business for the Redevelopment Commission, so there really is nothing going on for the economic development, just maintaining the status. I have no comments on those.

Thank you for getting those minutes to us.

MS. CLARK: Public comments: None

Commissioner Comments: None

Our next meeting date is Monday, June 22, 2026, at 4:30 p.m.

Is there a motion for adjournment?

MR. AVITIA: I'll make a motion to adjourn.

MS. CLARK: I'll second it.

All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

MS. CLARK: Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned.

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Approval of the Meeting Minutes of Friday
May 22nd, 2026

Approved and signed July 27, 2026

Wanda Clark

Wanda Clark, President

Jesse Avitia

Jesse Avitia, Vice-president

Sharma Frazier

Sharma Frazier

Tracy Ailes

Tracy Ailes, Secretary

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Peggy S. LaLonde, a competent and duly qualified court reporter, do hereby certify that I did report in machine shorthand the foregoing proceedings and that my shorthand notes so taken at said time and place were thereafter reduced to typewriting under my personal direction.

I further certify that the foregoing typewritten transcript constitutes minutes of the said proceedings taken at said time and place, so ordered to be transcribed.

Dated at Munster, Indiana, this 28th of May, 2026.



Peggy S. LaLonde
Peggy S. LaLonde