BUSINESS — to — BUSINESS

BAY AREA HOUSTON Economic Partnership

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Mark Mitchell

BAHEP extends its sincere appreciation for the continued support of THE DAILY NEWS through this monthly supplement.

League City

Adopts New Economic Development Strategic Plan

League City recently adopted a new Economic Development Strategic Plan to strengthen the community's economy, support quality growth, and sustain the high quality of life that residents value.

Unlike many strategic plans that rely primarily on consultants or internal staff, League City's Plan was developed through **community-based strategic planning**. Economic Development Staff utilized two complementary surveys and a series of stakeholder discussions to gather input from nearly 600 citizens and professional stakeholders representing infrastructure, transportation, education, workforce development, business, development, and economic development organizations.

The resulting Plan establishes a clear vision for the future while reflecting the priorities expressed by residents and stakeholders.

At the center of the Plan is a **Primary Directive**: **"Build a more valuable and financially sustainable League City."** The Plan recognizes that long-term economic resilience depends upon attracting quality jobs, private investment, and a balanced tax base capable of supporting community services, amenities, and infrastructure.

To accomplish this goal, the Plan is guided by four Strategic Directives:

1. **Attract Quality Development that Reflects and Enhances League City's Natural Beauty**
2. **Facilitate Commercial Investment that Balances the Tax Burden**
3. **Create Desirable, High Quality Experiences**
4. **Support New and Existing Businesses**

Together, these directives will guide future economic development efforts, including business retention and recruitment, redevelopment, infrastructure investment, placemaking, and environmental stewardship.

A key feature of the Plan is its emphasis on accountability and transparency. Each Strategic Directive includes specific **Critical Outcomes** that define what success looks like, with measurable **Performance Metrics**. Metrics include indicators such as business retention, commercial investment, sales tax growth, employment growth, mixed-use development activity, commercial tax base expansion, and trail connectivity.

Implementation progress will be monitored quarterly, reported biannually, and benchmarked annually by the Economic Development Department. Every January, the Economic Development Department will publish a Progress Dashboard summarizing key accomplishments, performance trends, and priorities for the upcoming year.

By linking community priorities with measurable outcomes, League City's Economic Development Strategic Plan provides a framework for building a stronger, more resilient, and financially sustainable future.

Information provided to the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership by:

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Director
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The Phoenix Business Accelerator

Supported by the Texas City Economic Development Corporation

The Phoenix Business Accelerator, supported by the Texas City Economic Development Corporation (TCEDC), is thriving in downtown Texas City.

What is the Phoenix?

The Phoenix was created to support entrepreneurs and new businesses as they begin to grow and expand. The facility offers a professional environment with low-cost office space, with full offices available at $450 per month and individual workspaces available for just $150 per month.

Members receive benefits including free utilities, printing/mailing, Wi-Fi, and use of the facility's conference room by appointment. As well, TCEDC staff also commissioned a seven-month training program on growing small businesses, and it is offered free of charge to clients.

Who can join the Phoenix?

The target audience for membership ranges from businesses that are just forming, to those who have been in business for approximately five years or less and are ready to grow. The Phoenix is industry agnostic, meaning we welcome everyone from digital media producers to counselors.

How can I move forward?

Once a client has toured the facility and made the decision to apply, staff will provide all necessary documents for submittal.

Applicants are reviewed on a case-by-case basis and, if approved, extended a one-year lease opportunity, with up to two, one-year extensions.

What else can the Phoenix do for me?

The staff of the Phoenix Business Accelerator is always available to assist with individual questions, business plan development, and provide connections related to growth and scaling. We offer a resource library, as well as a physical library of training materials.

For in-person learning and networking opportunities, the TCEDC partners with the Small Business Development Center of Galveston County, the Moore Memorial Public Library, and the Texas-City La Marque Chamber of Commerce to offer monthly "Small Business Success Series" events.

If you are an entrepreneur in Texas City and the surrounding area, please stop by for a facility tour at 607 6th Street North, or call 409-739-7538 for more information!

Information provided to the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership by:

Kristin Livingston, MPA, TDM
Economic Development Director

BUSINESS to BUSINESS is a monthly Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership publication in partnership with THE DAILY NEWS. BAHEP is a member-driven organization that provides the leadership to stimulate regional economic development and employment in southeastern Texas. Its members include more than 340 business partners encompassing 18 cities, Galveston and Harris counties, the Houston Airport System, and Port Houston.

For membership information, contact Membership Director Harriet Pilgrim at 832.536.3250.

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BAHEP June General Membership Meeting: Update from Davie Defense CEO

On June 3, BAHEP held its June General Membership Meeting featuring keynote speaker Philip Burns O'Brien, CEO of Davie Defense and Interim CEO of Gulf Copper.

O'Brien shared plans for a major shipbuilding initiative to build U.S. icebreakers on Pelican Island in Galveston. As part of the project, Davie Defense is investing $1 billion into the Island to transform its Gulf Copper facility from a dry-dock repair yard into an American icebreaker production facility.

The project is expected to create approximately 2,400 direct jobs, with an estimated statewide economic impact supporting nearly 7,000 jobs.

The development is also anticipated to generate new opportunities for suppliers, workforce development programs, and long-term regional economic growth.

The meeting drew strong attendance, and BAHEP members engaged O'Brien with thoughtful questions regarding the project's economic impact, workforce needs, and opportunities for local industry participation.

A special thank you to our meeting sponsors: Moody Bank, San Jacinto College, Lone Star College System, College of the Mainland, Harris County Precinct 2, and Joiner Architects, Inc.



Pictured above: Brian Freedman, President, BAHEP; Gareth Morgans, Harris County Precinct 2; Mike Sullivan, Board Chair, Lonestar College System; Nellie Chappel-White, 2026 Board Chair, BAHEP; Tom Perich, Chairman, Battleship Texas Foundation; Vic Pierson, Chairman/President/CEO, Moody Bank; Phillip Burns O'Brien, CEO Davie Defense and Gulf Copper; Dr. Helen Castellanos Brewer, President, College of the Mainland; Carl Joiner, Chairman & CEO, Joiner Architects; Ryan Kirkpatrick, Ryan Ford; Dr. Brenda Hellyer, Chancellor, San Jacinto College District; and Daron Peschel, Senior Vice President in Charge of Houston Branch, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas.



Pictured above: Rebecca Nutt, Phillip Burns O'Brien and Tom Perich.



Pictured above: Brian Freedman, Phillip Burns O'Brien, and Daron Peschel.