

Andrew, Devonia L.

From: Bredfeldt, Erik A.
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2014 4:13 PM
To: Rawls, Yvonne H.
Cc: Blackburn, Russ D.
Subject: Evergreen Cooperative CC agenda item

Commissioner:

You asked for some suggestions on making a referral to EDUCC regarding the Evergreen Cooperatives in Cleveland.

I would recommend that you'd simply say you'd like to refer a review of the Evergreen Cooperatives Initiative in Cleveland, Ohio to EDUCC for consideration/deliberation and further direction.

The salient points regarding the Initiative are:

- It was launched in 2008 by a working group of Cleveland institutions (including the Cleveland Foundation, the Cleveland Clinic, University Hospitals, Case Western Reserve University and City Government);
- The initiative is working to create living wage jobs in six low income neighborhoods;
- The initiative utilizes the coop model designed to catalyze new businesses that are owned by employees (Evergreen Coop Laundry (provision of laundry services), Evergreen Coop Energy Solutions (installation of solar arrays), Evergreen Green City Growers (growing vegetables);
- The Evergreen Cooperative Corporation (ECC) serves as a holding company leading the initiative and drives new business development and on-going management of business enterprises
- ECC is the keeper of the Evergreen vision: **to promote and expand economic opportunity in disinvested neighborhoods of Cleveland, with an ultimate goal of stabilizing and revitalizing these areas of the City.**
- ECC provides strategic guidance, coherence and continuity to the Evergreen network, which includes individual Evergreen cooperative businesses, a revolving loan fund, a real estate unit, a shared-services company (Evergreen Business Services), and other units still to come

The website is here if anyone wants to take a deeper dive into the information: <http://evergreencooperatives.com/>.

I hope that's helpful.

Erik