**TALKING POINTS TO PROVIDE PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

1. **Support the proposed allocation of $30 million to provide relief to our city’s small business community.**For 17 months, small business employers and employees have felt the impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic. They’ve faced unprecedented challenges, including navigating health and safety precautions, workplace regulations, maintaining staff, ensuring places of business are safe and clean for customers to patron.
2. **The economy reopened in June of 2021, however small businesses are faced with a myriad of challenges including, rehiring of workers, providing a clean and safe environment, and mask and vaccine mandates.** Although, the economy reopened earlier this summer, our small businesses have not been able to open at full capacity due to several continued challenges. We must ensure our small business community have the resources available to them to open fully and safely and revitalize the city.
3. **$30 million will go a long way when used strategically throughout the city, while also being inclusive of all small business owners, their industries and background.**Our city thrives from our small business community’s diverse backgrounds, industries, and culture. By further investing in our small business community, employers and employees can develop a short-term and long-term plan for operational success, while utilizing city resources available to them.