



## County of Albemarle

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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#### MEMORANDUM

**AGENDA DATE: 03/11/2025**

**TITLE:** CPA202100002 AC44 Comp Plan - AC44 Thriving Economy

**SUBJECT/PROPOSAL/REQUEST:**

Request for Planning Commission feedback on the AC44 Thriving Economy draft chapter, with particular emphasis upon the draft actions.

**ITEM TYPE:** Work Session

**STAFF CONTACTS:** Richardson, Wall, Filardo, Barnes, McDermott, Swartzendruber, Kanellopoulos, Benish, Holt, Newberry, Kilroy

**PRESENTERS:** Ben Holt, Senior Planner II, Emily Kilroy, Director of Economic Development

**LEGAL REVIEW:** Not Required

**REVIEWED BY:** Jeffrey B. Richardson

**BACKGROUND:** Albemarle County is updating the Comprehensive Plan through the Albemarle County 2044 (AC44) project. The project is in Phase 3: drafting language for the four-part Comprehensive Plan document and developing Plan actions.

The draft language for the Part III – Thriving Economy chapter in Attachment B is built upon community input and reflects the Planning Commission's and Board's feedback.

A thriving economy in Albemarle County is essential for residents' well-being, offering job opportunities, career growth, and economic stability. Equitable job access, business support, and workforce training are crucial, alongside essential community services like housing, childcare, and infrastructure.

The County's Economic Development Office is currently working on an economic development strategic plan. The updated strategic plan will provide goals, objectives, and actions that reflect community input and analysis of the county's current conditions and best practices in economic development. Once completed, the plan will guide the County's decision-making around economic development-related work and priorities over the next five years. Since this strategic plan update is in progress, the Thriving Economy chapter goal establishes the County's higher-level expectation for a thriving economy while the objectives identify important elements that contribute to maintaining and enhancing economic vitality, especially related to land use. Further directions and actions will be established with the update of the strategic plan.

Albemarle County aims to create a sustainable, diverse economy by supporting businesses, workforce training, and strategic land use planning. Continued investment in infrastructure and partnerships will be essential for long-term economic resilience. The Thriving Economy chapter will support the efforts of the economic development strategic plan and include actions that promote robust, county-wide economic development.

For reference, a summary of previous Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors feedback pertaining to the subject of Thriving Economy is provided as Attachment D. Community input themes associated with the topic are summarized in Attachment C.

**STRATEGIC PLAN:** Quality of life – Encourage a vibrant community with economic and recreational opportunities that serve all community members.

**DISCUSSION:**

An updated AC44 outline is provided as Attachment A. As a reminder, the topics within the red box will be the focus of today's work session. This work session focuses on proposed comprehensive plan language within Attachment B, with particular emphasis upon the draft actions.

The Board of Supervisors will hold a work session on April 16, 2025, to discuss the Thriving Economy draft chapter, along with the Community Facilities & Infrastructure draft chapter.

**BUDGET IMPACT:** There is no budget impact associated with this agenda item.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff requests the Commission review and provide feedback on draft Thriving Economy Actions.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attach A – [CPA2021-02 AC44 Comp Plan - AC44 Outline](#)

Attach B – [CPA2021-02 AC44 Comp Plan - Draft Chapter - Thriving Economy](#)

Attach C – [CPA2021-02 AC44 Comp Plan - Thriving Economy - Community Input Themes](#)

Attach D – [CPA2021-02 AC44 Comp Plan - Summary of Planning Commission and Board Feedback](#)