

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A wide-angle aerial photograph of a city at dusk or night. The sky is a deep blue, and the city lights are beginning to glow. In the foreground, there are several buildings of different sizes and colors, including a prominent red brick building. The city extends into the distance, with more buildings and trees visible under the fading light.

APRIL 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2025

PRESENTERS: MICHELLE FRYE,  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

WITH: JACK STREET, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
RESEARCH & SPECIAL PROJECTS MANAGER



GOAL 1

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## **Economic Development Definition**

Accelerating business development, attraction, retention, and expansion in key/targeted industry sectors.

# GOALS & OBJECTIVES



**GOAL 1** — Research and Catalog an economic development asset inventory to promote county assets and resources that support effective business attraction efforts

**GOAL 2** — Leverage Opportunities created by federal DOD funding of Energetics research, development and manufacturing

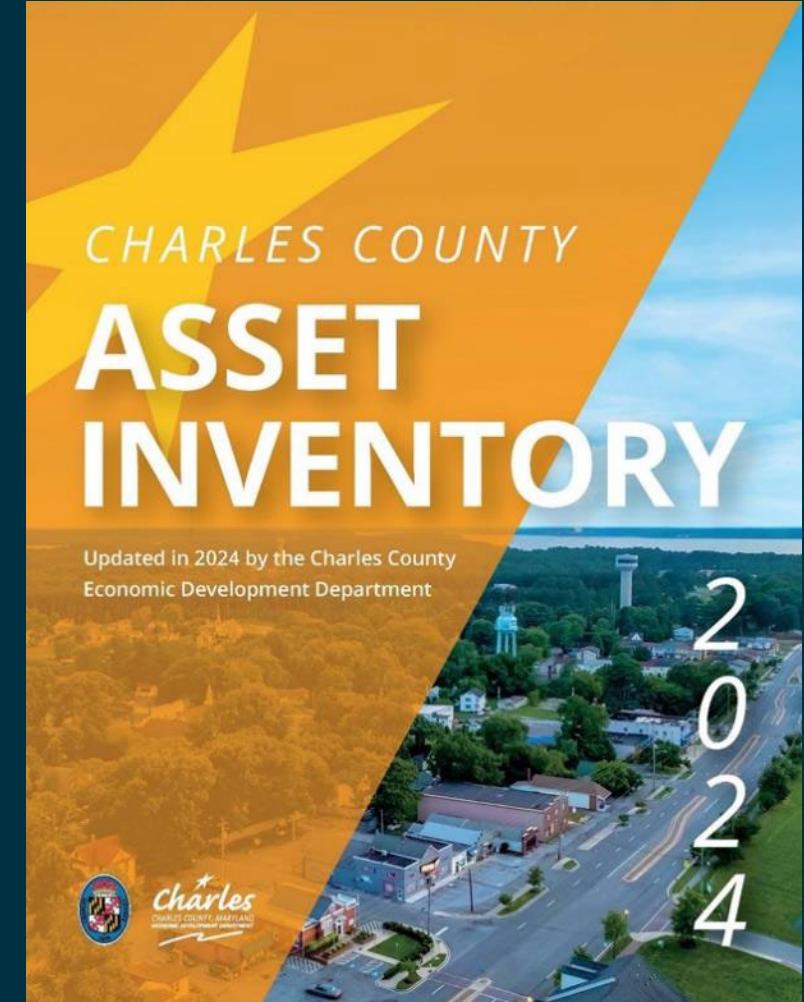
**GOAL 3** — Collaborate across departments to improve the speed, consistency, and predictability of the Development Review Process

**GOAL 4** — Complete a comprehensive economic development plan to spur investment and development while supporting the retention and attraction of businesses, entrepreneurs, and talent

UPDATE  
**GOAL 1**

Research and Catalog an economic development asset inventory to promote county assets and resources that support effective business attraction efforts

- The Economic Development Department (EDD) debuted the first edition of the Asset Inventory in November 2023 at the Annual Fall Meeting.
- The 2024 version of the Asset Inventory has been updated and is available now electronically on the EDD website, [www.MeetCharlesCounty.com](http://www.MeetCharlesCounty.com), under "Data & Resources."
- We continue assessing strengths/weaknesses, identifying gaps, as well as possible opportunities between assets.



## UPDATE **GOAL 2**

Leverage Opportunities created by federal DOD funding of Energetics research, development and manufacturing

### **X-Bow Launch Systems Inc.**

- New facility launch marking a key milestone in aerospace and defense innovation.
- Industry leader in national security, defense, and space sectors.
- Part of the Maryland Technology Center (MTC) and Western Charles Technology Corridor.



### **Renovated Carpenter's Garage**

- ETC revitalized a blighted building, transforming it into a modern office space.

### **Shoreline Restoration**

- EDD partnered with the Resilience Authority of Charles County and Indian Head to secure a \$3M+ Environmental Justice Award for shoreline restoration, funding efforts to restore the Henderson Property along the Potomac River.

### **New Developments at Former Lisa's Pub**

- Roebbeleben acquired the property, with exciting plans for future development.



UPDATE  
**GOAL 2 cont.**

Leverage Opportunities created by federal DOD funding of Energetics research, development and manufacturing

**NSWC IHD & USBTA Public-Private Partnership (P3) Agreement**

- A groundbreaking 10-year P3 agreement was signed between the Naval Surface Warfare Center Indian Head Division (NSWC IHD) and the United States Bomb Technician Association (USBTA) under the command's Center for Industrial and Technical Excellence (CITE) designation, fostering collaboration in defense innovation and training.



**Aviation Business Park Zoning**

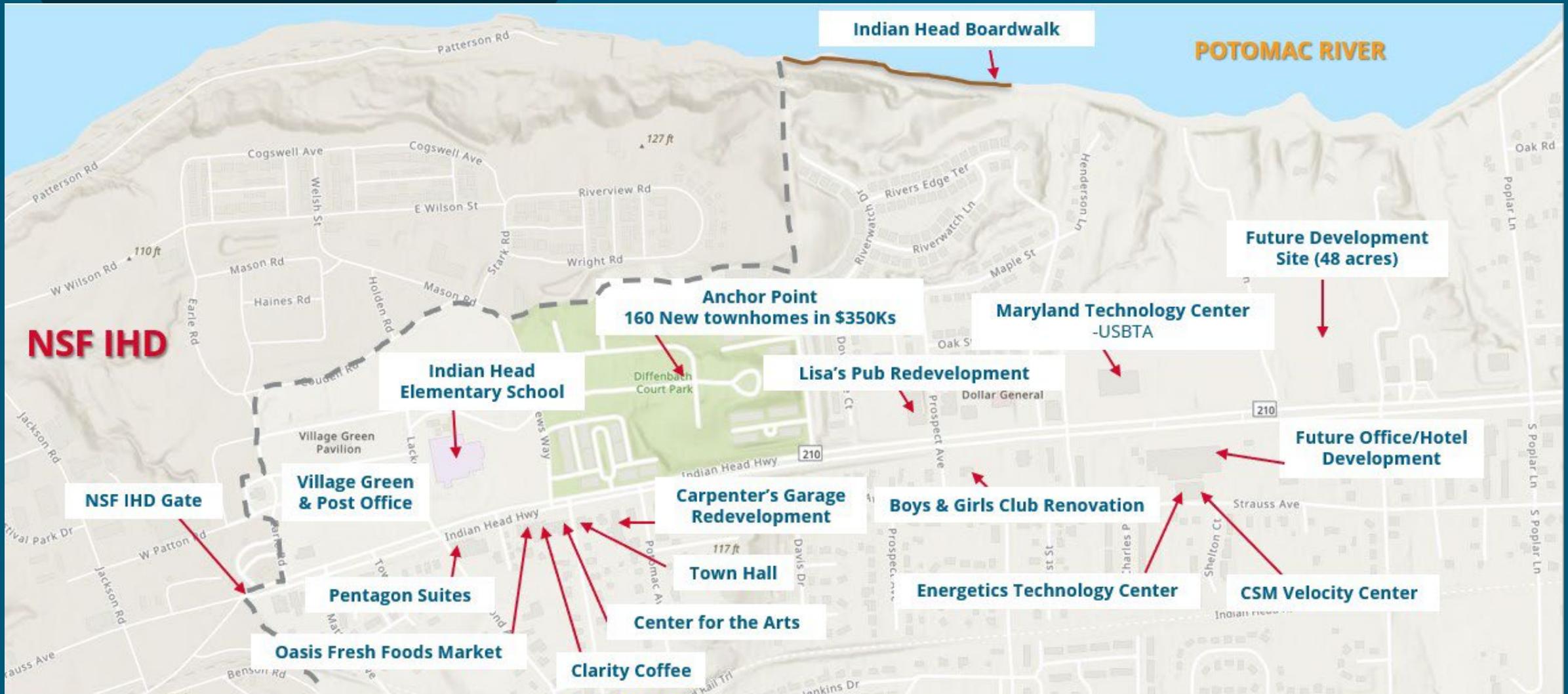
- BOCC established a dedicated zone to support expected growth in the energetics sector and related industries around Maryland Airport.

**Oasis Fresh Foods Market Opening**

- New market providing fresh food access and awarded MEDA Small Project of the Year.



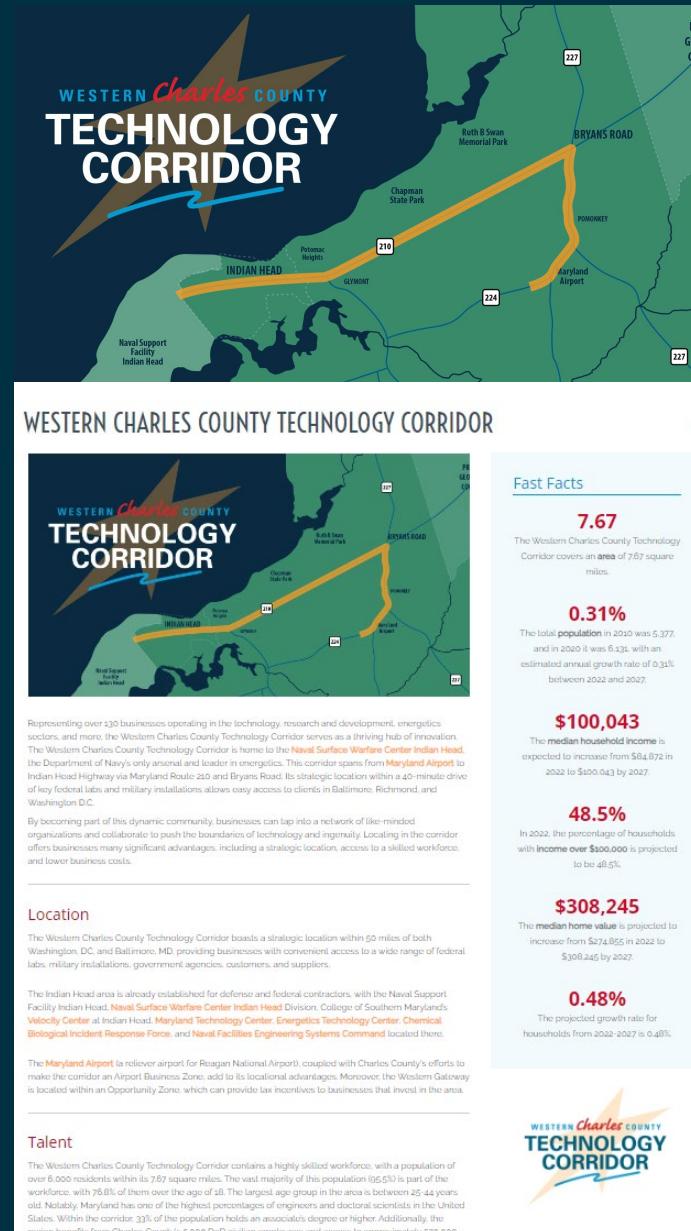
# Indian Head Redevelopment



UPDATE  
**GOAL 2 cont.**

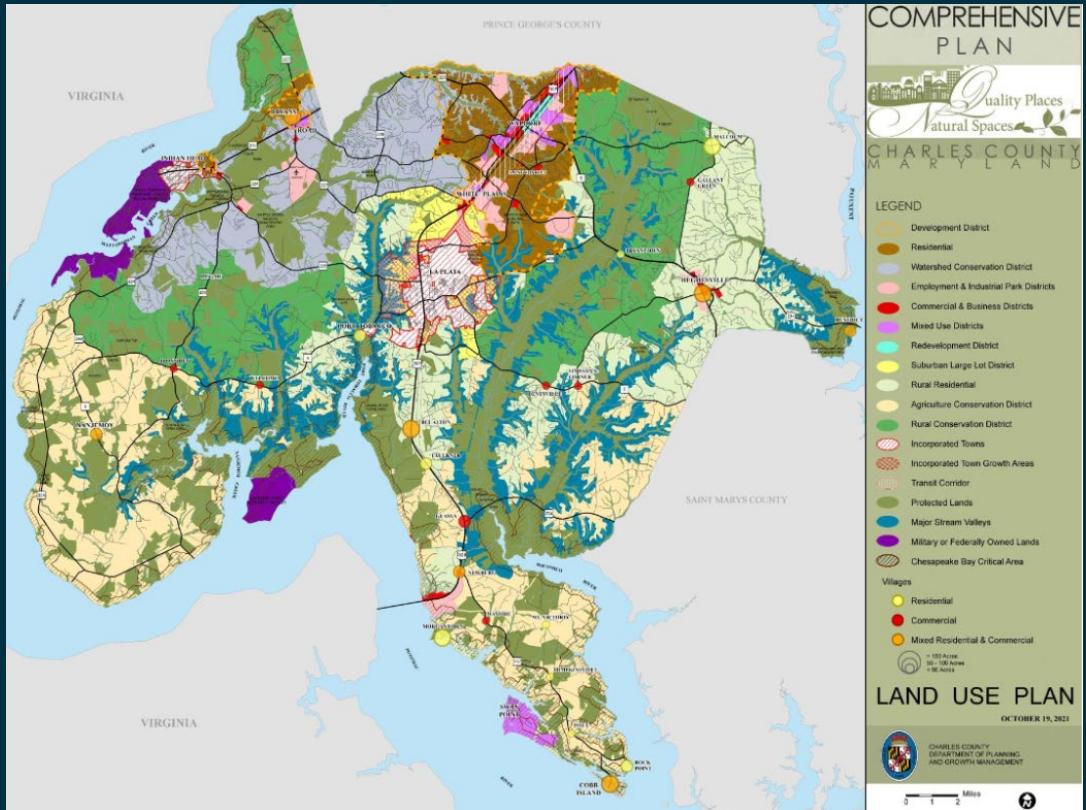
Leverage Opportunities created by federal DOD funding of Energetics research, development and manufacturing

- Developed and implemented a strategic marketing plan for the Western Charles County Technology Corridor.
- Initiated outreach efforts by sending welcome letters to businesses within the corridor.
- Collaborated with DPW and MDOT to secure final approvals for signage permits along the corridor.
- Enhanced visibility of the Energetics and Defense industries through targeted advertising, blogs, and published articles in Inside Defense and Sea Power Magazine.



## UPDATE **GOAL 3**

Collaborate across departments to improve the speed, consistency, and predictability of the Development Review Process

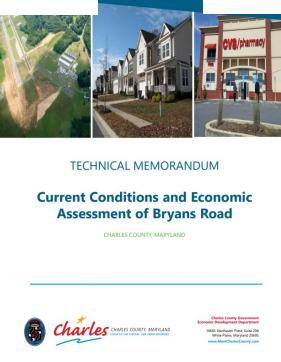
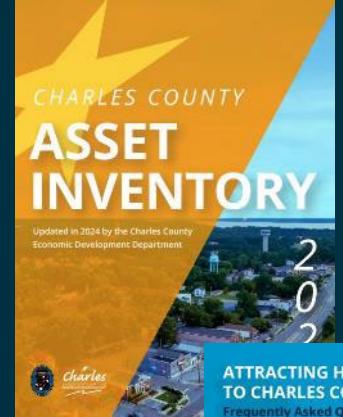


- **Cross-Departmental Collaboration:** EDD and PGM are working together to streamline the development review process.
- **Small Business Permitting Workgroup:** EDD, PGM, and the Chamber of Commerce have established a workgroup to enhance small business permitting, ensuring faster approvals and clearer guidance.
- **Zoning Code Updates:** The rewrite of the Zoning Code is underway and aims to improve efficiency, enhance consistency, and support business growth. The EDAB has formed a Zoning Code Subcommittee to serve as stakeholders throughout the process.
- **Comprehensive Plan Review:** EDD and PGM are reviewing updates to the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code to align with regional growth objectives.

## UPDATE GOAL 4

Complete a comprehensive economic development plan to spur investment and development while supporting the retention and attraction of businesses, entrepreneurs, and talent

- In preparation for the next economic development strategic planning process, EDD has completed the asset inventory project and is reviewing and updating other associated industry reports.
- EDD staff continues to conduct business outreach visits and activities to get a pulse on local business trends, issues, and areas of opportunity.
- The economic development strategic planning process is expected to launch in early 2025.

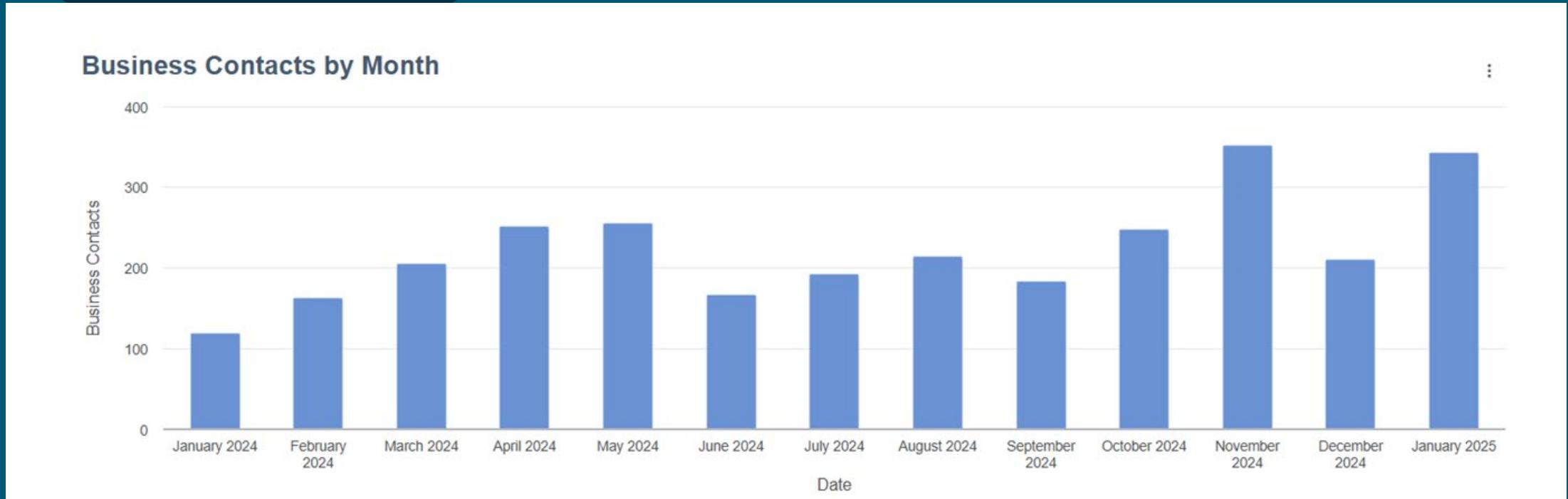


# Upcoming Initiatives

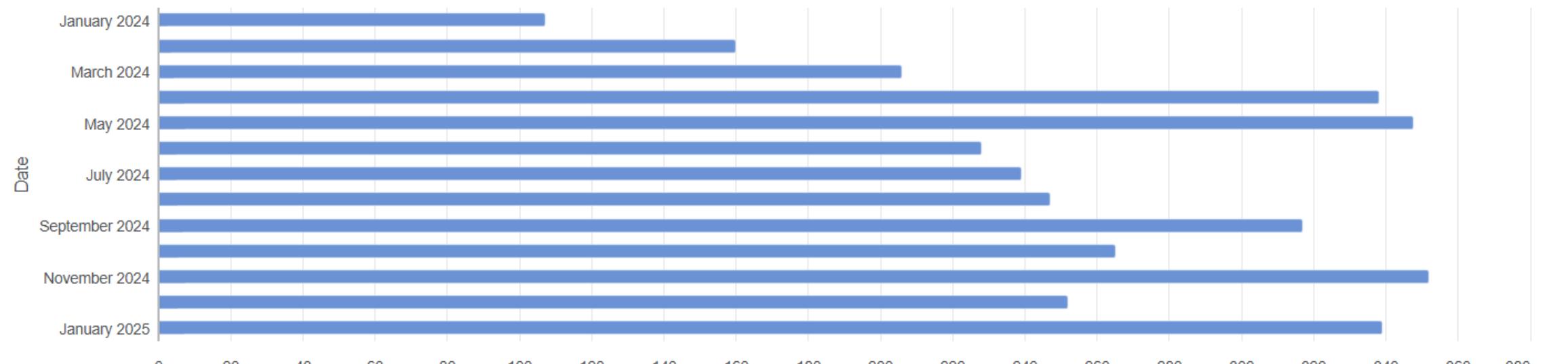


***With Love from Charles*** **Gift card Program:** For more information and to register to participate: [Join Charles County's Digital Gift Card Program | Charles County Economic Development \(meetcharlescounty.com\)](https://meetcharlescounty.com)

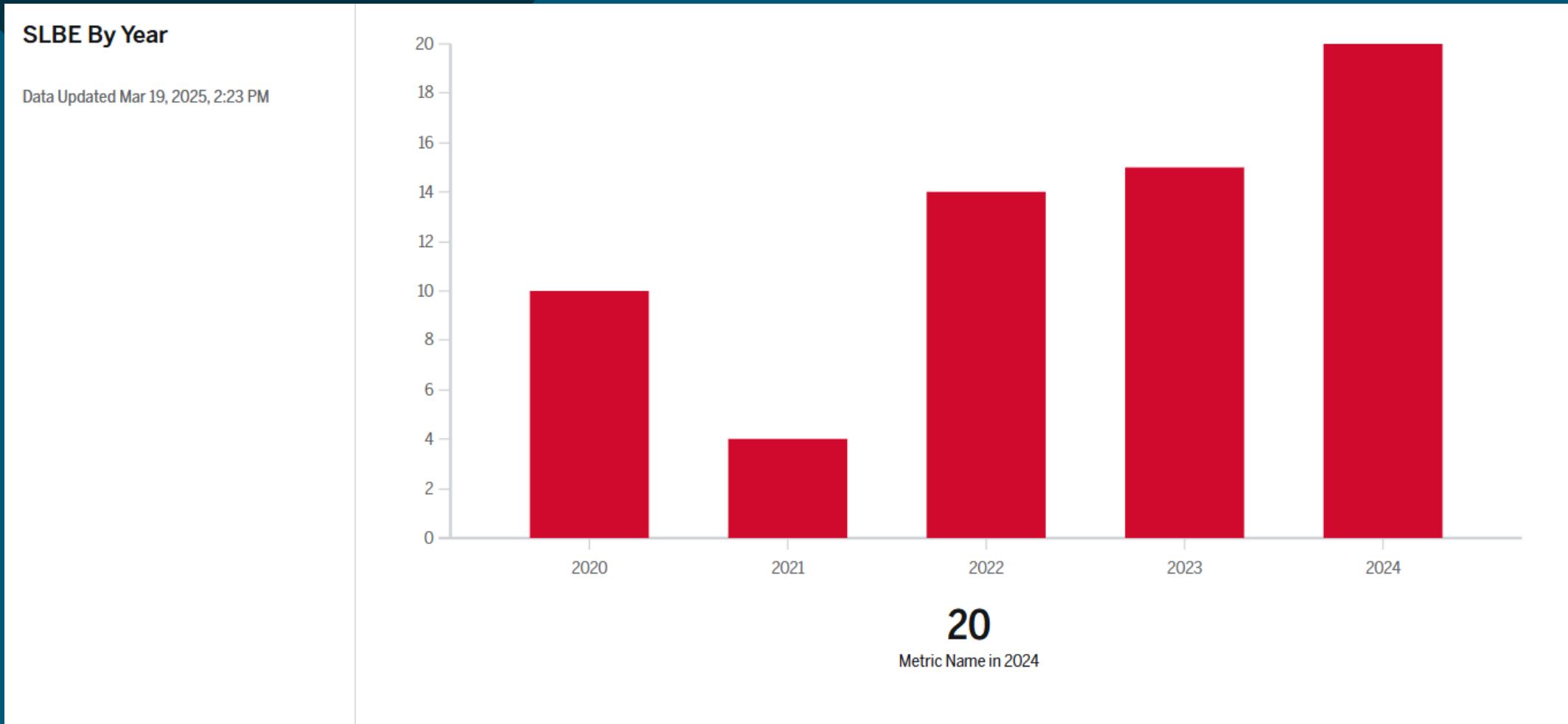
**4th Annual Business Appreciation Week – May 5-6, 2025:** For more information visit- [Charles County's 2025 Business Appreciation Week | Charles County Economic Development \(meetcharlescounty.com\)](https://meetcharlescounty.com)



## Business Engagement Hours



# OpenGov.com



# Questions?





# Charles County Government

200 Baltimore Street, La Plata, MD  
MD Relay Service: 7-1-1

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