

**City Council
Economic Vitality Committee
Meeting Agenda
Friday, September 15, 2023
City Hall
749 Main Street
1:30 PM**

Members of the public are welcome to attend and give comments remotely; however, the in-person meeting may continue even if technology issues prevent remote participation.

- You can call in to [+1 346 248 7799](tel:+13462487799) or [833 548 0282](tel:8335480282) (toll free) Webinar ID [#838 1396 0621](tel:83813960621)
- You can log in via your computer. Please visit the City's website here to link to the meeting: www.louisvilleco.gov/council.

The Board will accommodate public comments during the meeting. Anyone may also email comments to the Board prior to the meeting at ABrown@LouisvilleCO.gov.

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Meeting Minutes: August 18, 2023
5. Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda
6. Staff Updates
7. Discussion/Direction – Business Forum Update
8. Discussion/Direction – EVC Work Plan
9. Recent Articles
10. Discussion Items for Next Meeting

Persons planning to attend the meeting who need sign language interpretation, translation services, assisted listening systems, Braille, taped material, or special transportation, should contact the City Clerk's Office at 303.335-4536 or MeredythM@LouisvilleCO.gov. A forty-eight-hour notice is requested.

Si requiere una copia en español de esta publicación o necesita un intérprete durante la reunión, por favor llame a la Ciudad al 303.335.4536 o 303.335.4574.

11. Adjourn

City Council
Economic Vitality Committee
Meeting Minutes
Friday, August 18, 2023
Regular Meeting

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Leh called the meeting to order at 1:33 PM.
2. **Roll Call:** The following members of the City Council were present: Chair Leh, Mayor Pro Tem Fahey and Councilmember Most. Also present were Community Development Director Rob Zuccaro, Economic Vitality Manager April Kroner, Economic Vitality Specialist Austin Brown, and City Manager Jeff Durbin. Four members of the public were present.
3. **Approval of Agenda:** Councilmember Most made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Fahey. Motion passed.
4. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Mayor Pro Tem Fahey made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of July 31, 2023. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Most. Motion passed.
5. **Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda:** None.
6. **Staff Updates:**
Manager Kroner began with an update on the Direct Financial Assistance Application for 916 Main Street. Environmental and Planning Services (EPS) is currently conducting a third-party financial review of the proforma. The application will return to the Louisville Revitalization Commission (LRC) once the review has been completed. Councilmember Most asked whether the direct financial assistance application will need to go back to City Council for approval. Manager Kroner confirmed that it will, and clarified that staff is working on a services agreement between the LRC and EPS that will speed up the third-party review process.

Specialist Brown announced that Planning received an application for a PUD Amendment to rebuild the commercial property at 1116 W Dillon Road that was destroyed in the Marshall Fire. Director Zuccaro confirmed that the request was administrative in nature and does not require City Council approval.

Manager Kroner continued with an update on the cooperative agreement between the LRC and the City for ice rink operations for the 2023-24 season. The LRC is also working on a budget amendment to fund the remaining portion of the ice rink equipment purchase, operations, and electricity costs.

Manager Kroner then gave a brief update on a new business in Louisville. AIS Medicare & More had a ribbon cutting for its new location at 357 McCaslin Boulevard on August 9th.

Manager Kroner continued with updates on the following items that will be coming to City Council:

- Concept Plan Review Process. Planning Commission recommended approval of the process. The resolution will be coming to City Council for first reading on September 5th.
- Dark Sky Lighting. Planning Commission recommended approval of Option 2 (substantial alterations and compliance). The ordinance will come to City Council for first reading on September 5th.
- Energy Code Update. City staff will be hosting an open house on August 29 to discuss possible amendments to the adopted commercial energy code. Businesses are encouraged to attend and provide feedback.
- Downtown Vision Plan. City staff has selected a consultant to perform the Downtown Streetscape and Vision Plan and will be bringing a contract forward for review and approval. The project should commence immediately with completion anticipated for February/March of 2024.

Manager Kroner concluded with an update on the LRC, which is proposing modifications to the existing Façade Improvement Program. The modified program would be known as a Property Improvement Program and would expand the list of improvements for which businesses could be reimbursed.

7. **Discussion/Direction – Business Forum Update:** Chair Leh gave an overview of the semi-annual Business Forum and introduced some questions about hosting a forum this fall. He asked for additional details from staff. City Manager Durbin clarified that the group should attempt to identify not only the when and the what of the Business Forum, but also the why and the where.

Manager Kroner commented that Staff is planning to partner with the Louisville Chamber of Commerce for the next Business Forum. Staff is working on a questionnaire that will be sent out to the business community to gauge their preferences for the next event. Manager Kroner confirmed that the questionnaire has not yet been sent out, but that staff hopes to send it this week.

City Manager Durbin suggested that the questionnaire attempt to identify what the businesses are hoping to get out of the event. Councilmember Most advised

that the questionnaire be kept short and recommended multiple-choice questions and answers.

Public Comment from Eric Lund: Mr. Lund commented that the Business Forum is important because it allows the business community an opportunity to interact with City Council. The ability to speak to City Council and get feedback is vital. Likewise, it is helpful for City Council to hear some of the issues that might be affecting the business community directly from the businesses.

Mayor Pro Tem Fahey commented that there could be a time limit for public comments, which would help focus the discussion. Councilmember Most agreed that a time limit should help make the event safer and more enjoyable. The Committee agreed that there should be an opportunity for attendees to share questions at the event.

Public Comment from Eric Lund: Mr. Lund suggested that there should be a moderator to help filter and introduce questions asked during the event. The Committee agreed and hoped that Mr. Lund might be able to serve as the moderator.

Manager Kroner clarified that the questionnaire will attempt to collect questions to be asked at the Forum, as well as topics that may be of interest for a potential speaker, and City staff that should be in attendance.

Chair Leh commented that he has heard differing opinions on whether past attendees appreciated having a speaker. Manager Kroner confirmed that the questionnaire will ask this question (as well as potential speaker topics) and use the feedback to shape the format of the event.

Chair Leh asked about the timing for the questionnaire and the event. Manager Kroner responded that there will be a quick turnaround on the questionnaire so that staff can begin planning the event.

Chair Leh mentioned the Chamber's Candidate Forum scheduled for October and clarified that the Business Forum will be a separate event. Chair Leh then wondered when the event should or could be held and acknowledged that there are elections coming up in October and November. He commented that the event should not be seen as a campaigning event, but admitted that it may be hard to guard against that.

Mayor Pro Tem Fahey agreed and recommended that the forum be held as quickly as possible. Chair Leh clarified that knowing some of these issues that come up during the event may be helpful for candidates, but that the forum itself will not be a campaign event. City Manager Durbin cautioned that giving certain members of City Council an opportunity to speak at the forum may create a

conflict. Councilmember Most agreed and wondered if the event should be held after the elections.

Chair Leh countered that the event could be held before elections, but it should not include an opportunity for candidates to respond to issues. Councilmember Most responded that one of the most important aspects of the forum is the opportunity for the business community to interact directly with Council.

Councilmember Most commented that if the business community wanted to have its own campaign event in October, they could choose to do so. She recommended that the forum be kept as a separate event and should be held after the election. She cautioned that holding the event before the election could also open the door to Equity, Diversity & Inclusion concerns.

Chair Leh agreed and acknowledged that this could become an issue every two years. While not opposed to holding the forum in November, he reiterated that he doesn't want to send the message to the business community that their problems are not as important.

Mayor Pro Tem Fahey asked whether staff had capacity to put the forum together this year. Manager Kroner responded that staff is partnering with the Chamber to host the forum, but acknowledged that November would be a very quick turnaround. She also reiterated that direct connection with City Council is important to the business community, but agreed that the event should not be used as a campaign for candidates.

Public Comment from Mike Kranzdorf: Mr. Kranzdorf agreed that the forum should be held after the election. He also wondered whether it might make more sense to wait until January or February. He noted that the new members of City Council would be in place and would have participated in several meetings by this date.

Chair Leh acknowledged that there is a desire to hold the forum after the election. City Manager Durbin recommended that some messaging around the date of the forum be included in the questionnaire.

Mayor Pro Tem Fahey asked whether the 2024 forums should be scheduled for January and July. Chair Leh responded that he agrees with moving the forum to early 2024. The Committee wondered whether the date could be determined by feedback received from the business community. Manager Kroner responded that the questionnaire will include questions around the date and frequency of the forum. Chair Leh appreciated that pushing the forum to 2024 will allow the businesses more time to answer the questionnaire, and will also allow staff more time to be responsive to feedback received.

Mayor Pro Tem Fahey asked whether a quarterly forum would be feasible for staff. Manager Kroner responded that she would like to see the feedback from the business community before exploring that option. She confirmed that if the businesses want a quarterly forum, staff will make it happen. Director Zuccaro clarified that if the event were to be held quarterly, there would need to be more of a partnership with the Chamber and the event would become smaller and more predictable.

Public Comment from Mike Kranzdorf: Mr. Kranzdorf reiterated that the goal of the forum should be to reach businesses or individuals that don't regularly attend Council meetings. He was not sure that a small quarterly meeting would engage that group.

Manager Kroner added that there should be consideration given to making the meeting accessible to those who aren't able to attend in person. City Manager Durbin attempted to clarify the expectations for timing of the forum. Mayor Pro Tem Fahey confirmed that she is in support of taking time with the questionnaire and not holding the forum until next year.

8. Recent Articles:

No comments.

- 9. Discussion Items for Next Meeting:** The next regular meeting will be September 15, 2023 @ 1:30 PM. Chair Leh requested that staff provide an update on the Business Forum as well as the Work Plan. Manager Kroner confirmed that these items would be included on the September agenda.

- 10. Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 2:51 PM.

SUBJECT: STAFF UPDATES

DATE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2023

PRESENTED BY: AUSTIN BROWN, ECONOMIC VITALITY SPECIALIST

SUMMARY:

In the following, staff provides updates on recent activity related to core economic vitality functions.

Business Assistance Program (BAP) Updates

The proposed amendments to the city's BAP went to City Council for a first reading on September 5. The second reading and public hearing have been set for September 19.

Property Updates

The third party financial review of the proforma for the proposed Radiance MedSpa project (916 Main Street) is currently being reviewed by Environmental and Planning Systems (EPS). This review will evaluate the need for possible direct assistance funding to assist with any funding gaps to make the project feasible. The review will return to the LRC for consideration at its October meeting. If the LRC recommends assistance, the application will be presented to City Council for consideration.

Ice Rink Update

City Council approved Resolution No. 49, Series 2023 approving a Cooperation Agreement with the LRC regarding the outdoor skating rink at the Steinbaugh Pavilion. The Cooperation Agreement does the following:

- Formalizes the LRC's commitment to pay for the vendor agreement and electricity charges;
- Commits the revenues the City will receive from Rocky Rinks to be delivered back to the LRC; and
- Sets expectations for making decisions about the 2024-2025 season.

The LRC will review a proposed budget amendment to capture the financial commitments to the ice rink during its September meeting.

The ice rink has been named "The Ice on Front".

Business Openings and Closings

[The Argentos Empanadas](#) (1030 E S Boulder Road) opened its doors on Wednesday September 6. The new Louisville restaurant is the owners' third location, already having one in Silverthorne and one in Keystone.

Dark Sky Lighting

City Council set the public hearing date for the dark sky lighting ordinance for Monday, October 2. At the August Planning Commission hearing, the Planning Commission voted to recommend approval of an updated version of the ordinance including the following changes:

- Any residential addition (net increase in total SF) requires sitewide compliance
- Changes to 25% or more of exterior wall area or materials of an existing building requires building compliance (both residential and nonresidential)
- Nonresidential building additions equal to 25% or more of existing building SF requires sitewide compliance (with existing parking lot pole exemption)

Energy Code Update

Staff held an open house for the Commercial Energy Code on August 29. The event was intended to provide additional education on the adopted energy code and to allow businesses to provide feedback on possible amendments and areas of concern. Approximately 25 members of the business community attended and engaged in conversation with staff. The evening featured two breakout groups: one focusing on new construction and one focusing on existing buildings.

Downtown Vision Plan

At its August 23 meeting, the LRC recommended that City Council enter into the contract with MIG for consulting services to complete the Downtown Vision Plan for Streetscapes and Public Spaces. Funding for the plan will come from funds that are currently included in the LRC's 2023 budget for Downtown Conduit and Paver Repair. The LRC will complete a budget amendment prior to the end of the year to move the planned expenditure from the current line item (conduit & paver repair) to a new line item for the downtown vision plan; this will be brought forward to the City Council for review and consideration at a future meeting. A Project Kickoff for the Downtown Vision Plan for Streetscapes and Public Spaces is scheduled for September 26.

LRC Update

The LRC will be reviewing an amendment to its 2023 Budget during its September meeting. Additionally, the LRC will need to adopt a 2024 Budget during its November meeting. Both the 2023 Budget Amendment and the 2024 Budget will go to City Council for review prior to LRC adoption.

Staff is in the process of preparing program criteria for the new Property Improvement Program, which would extend Façade Improvement Program funding beyond work to exterior facades to the entire building/property. Examples of additional projects that may be considered for grant funding include entire building exterior renovations, back of building and alleyway improvements, trash enclosures, internal building modifications and upgrades/replacement of core systems (HVAC, electrical, plumbing), incorporation

SUBJECT: STAFF UPDATES

DATE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2023

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of murals and/or public art on private property, resiliency improvements (i.e., natural disaster mitigation improvements), landscaping, etc.

ATTACHMENT(S):

None.

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION/DIRECTION - BUSINESS FORUM UPDATE

DATE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2023

PRESENTED BY: AUSTIN BROWN, ECONOMIC VITALITY SPECIALIST

SUMMARY:

EV Staff is working in collaboration with the Louisville Chamber of Commerce on planning the next Business Forum event. Per discussion during the August EVC meeting, the Business Forum will be planned for First Quarter 2024. The following items are in process:

- Preparation of a short poll (5-7 questions) that will be sent to the business community to collect their input on the planned business forum. The questions will help determine preferences on time of day, amount of time for an event, frequency and timing of event, speaker interests, format (i.e., allowance for networking time or not), etc.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Informational only.

ATTACHMENT(S): N/A

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION/DIRECTION – 2023 EVC WORK PLAN

DATE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2023

PRESENTED BY: AUSTIN BROWN, ECONOMIC VITALITY SPECIALIST

SUMMARY:

The 2023 EVC Work Plan is included as *Attachment #1*. The 2023 Work Plan was created from the previous Economic Vitality Strategic Plan in July 2023. The current Work Plan includes seven priority projects. Updates on these seven projects are below:

1. Process Improvement Initiatives for Business Related Services
 - Ordinance creating Section 17.16.350 establishing procedures and criteria for a concept plan review. Public hearing has been set for October 2, 2023.
2. Semi-Annual Business Forum
 - Per direction during the August meeting, staff is working with the Chamber to plan the next Business Forum. The Forum will not be held until Q1 2024.
3. Market Gap Analysis
 - Staff participated in the Comprehensive Plan Kick Off meeting on September 6. The proposed Comprehensive Plan includes a Market Analysis of Growth Potential and Trends. It's anticipated that the final plan will be completed between October 2024 and January 2025.
 - Economic & Planning Systems (EPS) will be assisting with the Comprehensive Plan as the Economic Consultant.
4. Business Retention Visits
 - Staff is working on a strategy to revise its business retention visit approach. The goal is to increase the number of retention visits with existing businesses of all sizes.
 - Also reach out to new businesses once they have been established in Louisville (within first 12 months).
 - Possibly include as an option on Business Forum questionnaire/Business Satisfaction Survey.
5. Business Satisfaction Survey
 - Staff will begin drafting an RFP for consultant services to conduct focus groups. Focus groups will be
6. Identify Barriers to Renewable Energy Participation and Possible Solutions
 - Staff participated in the Commercial Energy Code Open House on August 29. The event allowed businesses to provide feedback on areas of concern and possible amendments to the commercial energy code.
 - Dark Sky Lighting Ordinance – public hearing set for October 2.

SUBJECT: 2023 EVC WORK PLAN

DATE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2023

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- Staff participated in the second workshop of the Community Decarbonization Plan and will plan to attend all remaining workshops. The goal of the Decarbonization Plan is to create a vision and plan for the City's energy future. The plan is intended to include the perspectives of both Louisville businesses and Louisville residents.
7. EDI Initiatives
- Consider making all business resources available in both English & Spanish.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff seeks input from the EVC regarding each of the seven Work Plan priority items.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Economic Vitality Committee 2023 Work Plan

**ECONOMIC VITALITY COMMITTEE
2023 Work Plan**



**2023 Priorities – June through December
Updated 7.31.23**

Project	Possible Actions
Process Improvement Initiatives for Business-Related Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review availability of services and support online as well as presented in English & Spanish; update and add as needed. Brainstorm on barriers to entry (from business perspective). Work with City departments, chamber, and use info from retention visits and prior business survey. Prioritize processes for improvement initiatives (includes analyzing existing planning/zoning and building permit review processes for improvements). (Concept Plan)
Semi-Annual Business Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold Fall 2023 Business Forum. Host Business Forum in Q1 2024. Ensure opportunity for questions and input from businesses. Work with business community to identify topics of interest to address.
Market Gap Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic & Planning Systems (EPS) will conduct market analysis including leakage/gap analysis. Prioritize outcomes and develop new strategies for retail attraction. Will be completed as part of the City’s Comprehensive Plan Process. (Q4 2024?)
Business Retention Visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct visits with existing businesses to develop relationships, identify issues and address concerns. Work on strategy for a more formalized business retention program.
Business Satisfaction Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Late 2023/24: draft RFP for consultant services to conduct focus groups. Consultant will develop 3rd party report identifying business concerns, needs, etc and identify actionable items/opportunities for the City to implement to better support the business community.
Identify Barriers to Renewable Energy Participation and Possible Solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with City Sustainability office. Energy Code Amendments. (In process) Dark Sky Lighting Ordinance. (10/2 City Council) General Renewable Energy Enhancements. Financing/Incentive opportunities (i.e. PACE). Community Decarbonization Plan
EDI Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with EDI Manager to ensure EDI is integrated into EV efforts.

BUSINESS

Sovos acquisition could result in local redundancies, Noosa sale

By **LUCAS HIGH** | BizWest / Daily Camera

PUBLISHED: August 15, 2023 at 4:33 p.m. | UPDATED: August 15, 2023 at 4:41 p.m.

LOUISVILLE — The upcoming acquisition of [Sovos Brands Inc. \(Nasdaq: SOVO\)](#) by [food giant Campbell Soup Co. \(NYSE:CPB\)](#) may result in the elimination of some redundant administrative operations at Sovos' Louisville headquarters and the offloading of the Bellvue-based Noosa Yoghurt brand.

“While yogurt is not core to our strategy, we are excited that (Noosa) is performing very well with great products and strong profitability,” Campbell CEO Mark Clouse said in a conference call last week after the firm went public with its plan to absorb Sovos, which moved to Colorado from California several years ago and controls Rao's pasta sauce, Noosa and Michael Angelo's frozen entrées, in a cash deal valued at about \$2.7 billion and expected to close later this year.

Strong performance from Noosa allows Campbell “to be patient while we evaluate strategic alternatives,” Clouse said. Once such alternative could be jettisoning the brand from Campbell's meals and beverages division, where Sovos' portfolio will be housed.



Noosa was co-founded in 2009 by Koel Thomaе, an Australian expat, and Rob Graves, a Colorado dairy farmer, who set out to bring the Aussie-style yogurt with a creamy texture and sweet-tart flavor profile to the U.S. market. The yogurt is made with whole milk, a touch of wildflower North American honey and real fruit purées on a family farm in Larimer County.

Cambell, according to its chief financial officer Carrie Anderson, expects the absorption of Sovos to result in the elimination of \$50 million in annual redundant costs over the next two years, much of which could to be cleaved from Sovos' administrative operations, which, of course, is headquartered in Boulder County.

“Our plan is to continue to build on (Sovo’s) incredible momentum, maintain their high quality standards and retain members of their talented team,” Clouse said.

The specific local impact of the deal remains unknown.

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From the Denver Business Journal:
<https://www.bizjournals.com/denver/news/2023/08/21/amp-robotics-increases-series-c-funding.html>

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Technology

Louisville-based robotics company adds to Series C, brings round to more than \$104.2M

The company added nearly \$13 million to its Series C over the last five months.




Image: Courtesy Photo | AMP Robotics

The company has nearly 200 employees.

COURTESY PHOTO | AMP ROBOTICS

By [Cassidy Ritter](#) – Reporter and Colorado Inno Editor, Denver Business Journal
Aug 21, 2023 **Updated** Aug 21, 2023 12:35pm MDT

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Robotics is a fast-growing industry. Alongside the increasing demand for robotics solutions, a Louisville-based company is scaling thanks to a fresh injection of capital.

AMP Robotics, which aims to make recycling more efficient, added nearly \$13 million to its Series C over the last five months, bringing the round's total to more than \$104.2 million.

First announced in November, the Series C sat at **\$91 million** from investors like Congruent Ventures, Wellington Management, Blue Earth Capital, Sequoia Capital, GV, Range Ventures and others. In May, AMP added **\$8 million** to this round, and last week it added an additional \$5 million.

This approximately \$13 million extension comes from Microsoft's Climate Innovation Fund and as a follow-on investment from an existing investor in AMP's Series C, Chris Wirth, vice president of corporate affairs for AMP, told the Denver Business Journal in an email. He said Microsoft and the other investor were interested in adding to AMP's Series C based on the viability of its artificial intelligence platform "as a category-defining technology application for the waste industry."

AMP uses AI technology and robots to transform the recycling industry. The company announced its AI product, [AMP Vortex](#), in October and planned for this product to be in full production this year. Vortex helps remove film – such as plastic grocery or bread bags, trail mix packaging and other flexible plastics – from materials recovery facilities (MRFs).

Since launching AMP Vortex, the company has rolled out a new compact robotics solution guided by AI, called AMP Cortex-C. Cortex-C has a small footprint and is designed to be used in tight locations in MRFs and plastic reclamation facilities. AMP now provides customers with a line of AI-powered solutions that can be used to expand recycling facilities, including standalone and MRFs.

"Our Series C investment validates the role of advanced technology and innovation in improving recycling, and the conviction private investors have in elevating business models focused on increasing recovery rates and scaling landfill diversion," Wirth said. "... [Our investors] see the promise and disruptive nature of our technology and business model and the long-term benefits it provides and will continue to provide to our customers, the economy and the environment."

AMP will use this funding to scale. That includes deploying solutions to retrofit existing recycling facilities and expanding into new infrastructure.

With a team of nearly 200 employees, the Louisville-based company plans to expand its team.

"We're focused on adding headcount strategically where it will have a direct impact on our ability to grow the business," Wirth said.

BUSINESS

Sierra Space, Redwire partnering on space biotech R&D platform

By **LUCAS HIGH** | BizWest / Daily Camera
August 21, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

LOUISVILLE — Aerospace manufacturer Sierra Space Corp. and Florida-based Redwire Corp. (NYSE: RDW) are teaming up to build a platform for commercial pharmaceutical and biotech research and development and manufacturing in low-Earth orbit.

“Redwire is delivering state-of-the-art, flight-proven biotechnology and manufacturing technologies that will be integrated into Sierra Space’s Large Integrated Flexible Environment (LIFE) habitat platform, making them available to customers and enabling commercial breakthroughs for pharmaceutical drug development and human health research,” the companies said in a news release.

SSC’s LIFE platform is set for a full-scale test this fall in advance of a future launch.



“The most significant industrial revolution is underway in space, as we build the first microgravity factories that will benefit humanity with breakthrough innovations and solutions to our toughest problems here on Earth,” Sierra Space CEO Tom Vice said in the release. “In Redwire, we have a partner that has a proven history of innovation across in-space manufacturing and biotech facilities. Together we will enable discoveries in human health care, biopharma and across the widest range of the industrials sector as we extend research facilities and factories off-world in the Orbital Age.”

For the biotech platform, Redwire will provide “a suite of space hardware and ground-based equipment, including biotechnology for large molecule crystallization for pharmaceutical structure determination and formulation, thermally conditioned stowage lockers, manufacturing facilities for industrial crystals, and a gradient-temperature furnace,” the release said.

Redwire has a Boulder County connection. In 2020, the company, which at the time was recently formed, [acquired Rocco LLC](#), a Longmont-based aerospace technology and small satellite maker.

The partnership with Redwire appears to solidify SSC’s commitment to advancing life-sciences activity in space.

A few weeks ago, Sierra and BioServe Space Technologies, a research center at the University of Colorado Boulder, [launched a partnership to conduct an experiment aimed at growing stem cells in space.](#)

The investigation seeks to “grow hematopoietic stem cells in microgravity to better help patients on Earth undergoing treatment for blood cancer,” SSC said in a news release in early August. “... For the in-space experiment, Sierra Space, BioServe and the study team sent stem cell samples from multiple umbilical cord blood donors to look for beneficial differences during the cell growth experiment.”

This article was first published by BizWest, an independent news organization, and is published under a license agreement. © 2023 BizWest Media LLC. You can view the original here: [Sierra Space, Redwire partnering on space biotech R&D platform](#)



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ECONOMY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT | AUGUST 22, 2023 | 12:03:48 PM

California drug company ImmunityBio cuts jobs at Louisville office



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LOUISVILLE — ImmunityBio Inc. (Nasdaq: IBRX), a struggling California-based drug company that develops therapies to fight cancers and infectious diseases, is laying off 13 workers in its Louisville satellite office.

Jobs being cut include scientists, engineers, numerous administrative roles, heating and air-conditioning technicians, executive director of enterprise programming, senior managers of various departments and a vice president of financial planning, according to a letter provided by ImmunityBio to the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment's Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act manager. The letter lists the total number of impacted roles at 48, but could include workers at other ImmunityBio locations.

The layoffs are permanent, said the letter, which was also sent to elected officials in Louisville, Broomfield, Lafayette, Superior, Longmont, Westminster Denver, Arvada, Parker and Morrison. WARN notice letters are often sent to officials in cities where impacted workers live.

"The Louisville location remains an important research and manufacturing site for ImmunityBio," a company representative told BizWest in an email.

The layoffs at ImmunityBio include employees at "satellite worksites and remote workers," none of whom are represented by a union.

The layoffs will take place on Oct. 17, the WARN letter said.

The Culver City, California life-sciences firm has a Louisville satellite office at 1450 Infinite Drive, which it took over from GlobelImmune Inc.

In 2017, California-based NantCell Inc., a subsidiary of life-sciences umbrella company NantWorks LLC, **bought the majority of shares in Louisville's GlobelImmune**, giving it control over the then beleaguered oncology therapy developer. Then in 2021, **ImmunityBio merged with NantKwest Inc. (Nasdaq: NK)**, another NantCell subsidiary, bringing the Louisville office under Immunity's purview.

ImmunityBio is "undertaking this layoff in order to streamline operations to focus on the company's current business strategy and reduce costs," the WARN letter said.

ImmunityBio's stock price has slid more than 70% since mid-May, when **the company was notified by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration** that its bladder cancer drug candidate would not be immediately approved.

Last fall, ImmunityBio said it expected to hire 300 new workers for a facility in New York, **media reports show**, but backtracked on that pledge and instead cut nearly 40 jobs.

Correction: This story has been corrected to reflect that 13 workers were laid off in ImmunityBio Inc.'s Louisville operations. BizWest regrets the error.



LOCAL NEWS

Pints in the Park event offers unlimited local craft beer samples

By **ANDREA GRAJEDA** | agrajeda@prairiemountainmedia.com |

Prairie Mountain Media

PUBLISHED: August 22, 2023 at 10:18 a.m. | UPDATED: August 22, 2023 at 2:06 p.m.

Discover your new favorite beer at the Louisville Chamber of Commerce's Pints in the Park event.

The event, 4-8 p.m. Sept. 2 at Louisville Community Park, 955 Bella Vista Drive, is a chance for beer enthusiasts to try a lineup of craft beers from local breweries. The event will also have a variety of food vendors as well as live music.

Early bird tickets for the event are \$45 and tickets purchased at the door are \$55. The tickets include a commemorative taster glass and unlimited samples of craft beer. Designated driver tickets are \$10, and do not receive samples or a commemorative glass.

More information and tickets are available at louisvillechamber.com/pints-in-the-park



Tags: [Beer](#), [East County](#)



Andrea Grajeda | East Boulder County

Andrea Grajeda is the east Boulder County reporter for the Colorado Hometown Weekly and the Boulder Daily Camera. She started at the newspapers in November 2022.

agrajeda@prairiemountainmedia.com

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Labor Day Parade rolls through Louisville

By **MATTHEW BENNETT** | mbennett@prairiemountainmedia.com |
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Fire trucks, marching bands, local politicians and even some union members made their way down Main Street on Monday for Louisville's 87th annual Labor Day Parade.

Atman Hanel, who co-owns The Waterloo restaurant along Main Street, started passing out free, frozen Otter Pops to parade goers early Monday morning.

The ice-cold treat was fitting as immediately before the start of the Labor Day Parade was the Children's Pet Parade, which made its way down Main Street right in front of Hanel's business.

"Honestly, it's the kids and the pets," Hanel replied when asked what his favorite part of the day had been. "If you're going to come out here at 8:30 in the morning



Louisville resident John Obrecht and his family were a few of the many people who participated in the Children’s Pet Parade. Obrecht wheeled his 14-year-old cat, Aragon, in a spacious wagon down the parade route before taking a break to relax in the shade.

“It was kind of funny pulling him through the pet parade. (Aragon) slept the whole thing while we were pulling him,” Obrecht said. “Everything is family friendly. ... That’s what we do here.”

Countless people lined Main Street in the heart of downtown Louisville as the Labor Day Parade, itself, kicked off at 10 a.m.

The parade started at the intersection of East Lafayette Street and Main Street and proceeded south before concluding at the intersection of Main Street and Parkview Avenue.

Several current politicians as well as candidates for local office shook hands with parade goers in hopes of securing their votes at the ballot box.



Drummers and the Monarch High School marching band make their way down Main Street during the 87th annual Labor Day parade and celebration in Louisville on Monday. (Matthew Jonas/Staff Photographer)

The sound of marching bands including those from Centaurus High School in Lafayette and Monarch High School in Louisville also reverberated throughout

Dylan Mines, who is one of Centaurus High School's drum majors, said that he was having too good of a time Monday to have been fazed by the warmer temperatures.

"It's a lot of fun doing this every year," Mines said at the conclusion of Monday's parade route. "You get to interact with people in the community."

Following the Labor Day parade, people headed over to Louisville's Fall Festival at Memory Square Park where they enjoyed more music and plenty of food.

"It's really awesome to see the community and see the support," Sloane Weiss, who is another drum major at Centaurus High School, said. "I'm so grateful for it."



The honor guard from Walter Rhoades American Legion Post 111 leads the 87th annual Labor Day parade and celebration on Main Street in Louisville on Monday. (Matthew Jonas/Staff Photographer)



Matthew Bennett

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Health Care

Louisville healthtech company to downsize Colorado space

Hybrid work trends prompted the need for a smaller office, company exec said.




Image: Dave Ingraham

The Global Health Exchange office space in Louisville is up for sublease. The medical supply chain company said it will remain headquartered in Colorado.

DAVE INGRAHAM



By Analisa Romano – Reporter, Denver Business Journal
Sep 5, 2023 **Updated** Sep 6, 2023 6:20pm MDT

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A Louisville-based health care supply chain company plans to give up more than 86,000 square feet of office space at its headquarters. Separately, the company is set to embrace an operational expansion to India.

While there will be no staff downsizing, the headquarters is too large for what has transformed into a fully hybrid tech company, said Chrystie Leonard, chief customer experience officer for Global Healthcare Exchange (GHX). The company's current headquarters, at 1315 W. Century Drive in Louisville, is up for sublease.

At the same time, GHX will follow in the footsteps of other major technology companies such as Google in establishing an operation in India called a global capability center. Such centers capitalize on tech-savvy offshore workforces to bolster research and development efforts.

GHX uses cloud-based software to connect hospitals and other providers with health care supplies. Following years of growth, GHX today processes about \$260 billion in transactions between parties, Leonard said.

For the new global capability center, GHX plans to make use of a workspace in Hyderabad that was inherited in its 2022 acquisition of Tampa-based Syft, a supply chain management software company that integrates artificial intelligence.

The company plans to have more than 300 people working in Hyderabad by 2025, Leonard said. Currently, GHX has about 1,350 employees across the U.S.



Chrystie Leonard, chief customer experience officer for Global Healthcare Exchange (GHX).

GHX

GHX is hoping the India location will help to accelerate its technology, which should improve the customer experience and boost its bottom line, Leonard said. For example, one team will be dedicated to helping hospitals get a better understanding of their inventory prospects – what they have on hand, what is back-ordered, and how long it will take to get what they need.

"We're really solving that through automation, we want to make it so that it's touchless," Leonard said. "I will say we are expanding across all of our teams, across both operations and on the development side."

While GHX has an arguable stronghold on its market – the company counts more than 19,000 health care provider facilities and more than 15,000 supplier divisions that use its software – Leonard said there are opportunities to grow.

"If you think about today, we play mostly in the acute space, so kind of core hospitals," she said. "A lot of care is moving outside the hospital to non-acute location surgery centers, [ambulatory surgery centers], there's lots of other places."

New employee digs

About 300 people work for GHX in Colorado, Leonard said. Many employees moved during the pandemic, while others have settled into hybrid work routines, rendering the Louisville space too large.

Leonard said she is not yet sure what the new Colorado GHX space will look like but is looking for places where employees can still gather periodically. Regardless, she said GHX is intent on keeping its official headquarters in the Denver area.

Leonard said GHX has seen an uptick in productivity and employee satisfaction since allowing for the hybrid routine and is leaning in as a result.

"We don't feel like we're losing ground," Leonard said. "We actually feel like we're accelerating ground in terms of meeting our customer needs. We're gonna flex in that way to support [employees]."

T H E L I S T

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3	3	Raytheon Intelligence & Space
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