



MICHIGAN ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Executive Committee Minutes

July 14, 2026

Michigan Economic Development Corporation
300 N. Washington Square
Lansing, MI 48913
or via Zoom

Members Present:

Beth Ardisana
David Coulter
Krista Flynn
Sarah Gonzales
Kelly Hall
Fadwa Hammoud
Mike McLauchlan

Bob McMahan
LaJune Montgomery-Tabron
Amanda Pontes
JP Rea
Bob Sutherland
Renee Tomina
Carla Walker-Miller

Members Absent:

Christina Grossi
Bobby Hopewell
Tom Lutz

Sheldon Neeley
Michael C. Taylor

Staff Present:

Christin Armstrong
Lavonne Blonde
Christina DeGrow
Michelle Grinnell
Markie Justice
Paul O'Connell

Ian McCorvie
Quentin Messer
Calvin Myers
Hannah Rethamel
Terrance Warren

I. Call to order

Vice Chair Flynn called the July 14, 2026, MEDC Executive Committee ("Committee") meeting to order at 9:02 am. A roll call was performed to determine attendance. A quorum was present. The meeting was held at Michigan Economic Development Corporation, 300 N. Washington Square, Lansing, MI 48913. Vice Chair Flynn welcomed Members and requested that Ms. DeGrow provide any necessary communications. Communications were sent to the committee via email on June 5, 2026, June 16, 2026, June 18, 2026, July 10, 2026, and July 13, 2026. Members were also provided written public comments on July 14, 2026.*

Sarah Gonzales joined at 9:03am.

II. Public Comment

*Upon approval of the minutes, written public comments will be included at the end of the meeting minutes.





Vice Chair Flynn invited public comment. Ms. DeGrow facilitated and public comment was had. Vice Chair Flynn thanked those individuals who provided public comment.

III. Chairperson's Report

Vice Chair Flynn asked if any Members had conflict(s) with any agenda item(s) for which he or she would like to recuse. Ms. Hammoud indicated she has previously recused herself from the closed session agenda item.

Vice Chair Flynn extended a warm welcome to, and introduced, the newest Member, JP Rea. Mr. Rea thanked Vice Chair Flynn and provided brief comments to the committee.

Vice Chair Flynn asked if there were any proposed edits or changes to the meeting minutes of May 12, 2026. There were none. *Beth Ardisana moved to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2026, meeting; Fadwa Hammoud supported. A vote was taken with 13 aye votes; 0 nay votes; 0 abstained.*

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Beth Ardisana, David Coulter, Krista Flynn, Sarah Gonzales, Kelly Hall, Fadwa Hammoud, Mike McLauchlan, LaJune Montgomery-Tabron, Amanda Pontes, JP Rea, Bob Sutherland, Renee Tomina, Carla Walker-Miller; Nays: None; Abstained: None

Vice Chair Flynn asked if there were any questions or concerns regarding the updated meeting schedule, which added a September 10, 2026, meeting. There were no objections. Vice Chair Flynn requested the Secretary update meeting notices to reflect the new meeting date.

IV. State of the MEDC

Mr. Messer welcomed Members and thanked them for their continued service to the MEDC. Mr. Messer provided a brief update on the fiscal year 2027 budget recently approved by state legislature. Mr. Messer highlighted the June Michigan Strategic Fund ("MSF") board approved projects that demonstrate the breadth and impact of MEDC's work across the State. Mr. Messer also highlighted recent investment missions, site selector activities, the JPMC Michigan Resiliency Summit, and MEDC Roadshows.

Dr. McMahan arrived at 10:12am.

V. Finance Subcommittee Report

Ms. Ardisana advised the Finance Subcommittee met in June to discuss the MIBA contract, the State Budget as approved by the Legislature, and proposed updates to both the Investment Policy and Budget Development Policy. The Subcommittee supported the approval of the policy changes. Also discussed were programmatic updates, organizational governance policy changes, and strategic planning updates.



The Subcommittee also met in July to review the transition of MLSIC, finalized the proposed policy changes and received a briefing on the budget. They were also updated on the strategic plan and personnel matters.

Calvin Myers, Chief Financial Officer, provided an overview of proposed changes to the Investment Policy.

Vice Chair Flynn asked for any additional comments or questions regarding the amended investment policy. Being none, *a motion was made by Carla Walker-Miller to approve the Amended Investment Policy and its accompanying resolution; David Coulter supported. A vote was taken with 14 aye votes; 0 nay votes; 0 abstained. The motion passed unanimously.*

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Beth Ardisana, David Coulter, Krista Flynn, Sarah Gonzales, Kelly Hall, Fadwa Hammoud, Mike McLauchlan, Bob McMahan, LaJune Montgomery-Tabron, Amanda Pontes, JP Rea, Bob Sutherland, Renee Tomina, Carla Walker-Miller; Nays: None; Abstained: None

Mr. Myers provided an overview of proposed changes to the Budget Development Policy.

Vice Chair Flynn asked for any additional comments or questions regarding the amended budget development policy. Being none, *a motion was made by LaJune Montgomery-Tabron to approve the Amended Budget Development Policy and its accompanying resolution; Fadwa Hammoud supported. A vote was taken with 14 aye votes; 0 nay votes; 0 abstained. The motion passed unanimously.*

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Beth Ardisana, David Coulter, Krista Flynn, Sarah Gonzales, Kelly Hall, Fadwa Hammoud, Mike McLauchlan, Bob McMahan, LaJune Montgomery-Tabron, Amanda Pontes, JP Rea, Bob Sutherland, Renee Tomina, Carla Walker-Miller; Nays: None; Abstained: None

Paul O'Connell, Vice President, Real Estate Development, provided an overview of the request for delegation of authority regarding the Michigan Life Science ("MLSIC") facility, including the facility's history and benefits of a future sale.

Vice Chair Flynn asked for any additional comments or questions regarding the delegation of authority for MLSIC. Being none, *a motion was made by Beth Ardisana to approve the Delegation of Authority for MLSIC and its accompanying resolution; Carla Walker-Miller supported. A vote was taken with 14 aye votes; 0 nay votes; 0 abstained. The motion passed unanimously.*

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Beth Ardisana, David Coulter, Krista Flynn, Sarah Gonzales, Kelly Hall, Fadwa Hammoud, Mike McLauchlan, Bob McMahan, LaJune Montgomery-Tabron,



Amanda Pontes, JP Rea, Bob Sutherland, Renee Tomina, Carla Walker-Miller; Nays: None;
Abstained: None

VI. Organizational Governance Subcommittee Report

Vice Chair Flynn reported the Organizational Governance Subcommittee convened in June to continue discussion on proposed updates to personnel and organizational governance related policies and frameworks. The Subcommittee recommended approval of the policies and frameworks. The Subcommittee also received information on programmatic updates, strategic planning updates, and the state budget status and timelines.

The Subcommittee also met on July 13th and received a briefing on the organization's budget, further discussed and finalized recommendations for the proposed policy changes, received information on programmatic updates, the transition of MLSIC, the updated strategic plan, and personnel matters.

Markie Justice, Vice President of People Services, summarized the compensation & benefits governance framework.

Mr. Coulter left the meeting at 10:20 am.

Ms. Ardisana left the meeting at 10:23 am.

Mr. Coulter rejoined the meeting at 10:24 am.

Vice Chair Flynn asked for any additional comments or questions regarding the compensation & benefits governance framework. Being none, *a motion was made by Mike McLauchlan to approve the Compensation & Benefits Governance Framework and its accompanying resolution; JP Rea supported. A vote was taken with 13 aye votes; 0 nay votes; 0 abstained. The motion passed unanimously.*

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: David Coulter, Krista Flynn, Sarah Gonzales, Kelly Hall, Fadwa Hammoud, Mike McLauchlan, Bob McMahan, LaJune Montgomery-Tabron, Amanda Pontes, JP Rea, Bob Sutherland, Renee Tomina, Carla Walker-Miller; Nays: None; Abstained: None

Mr. Ardisana rejoined the meeting at 10:25 am.

Ms. Justice summarized the CEO Employment and Performance Administration Policy.

Vice Chair Flynn asked for any additional comments or questions regarding the CEO Employment and Performance Administration Policy. Being none, *a motion was made by*



JP Rea to approve the CEO Employment and Performance Administration Policy and its accompanying resolution; Sarah Gonzales supported. A vote was taken with 14 aye votes; 0 nay votes; 0 abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Beth Ardisana, David Coulter, Krista Flynn, Sarah Gonzales, Kelly Hall, Fadwa Hammoud, Mike McLauchlan, Bob McMahan, LaJune Montgomery-Tabron, Amanda Pontes, JP Rea, Bob Sutherland, Renee Tomina, Carla Walker-Miller; Nays: None; Abstained: None

Ms. Justice summarized the Organizational & Workforce Planning Framework.

Vice Chair Flynn asked for any additional comments or questions regarding the Organizational & Workforce Planning Framework. Being none, *a motion was made by Fadwa Hammoud to approve the Organizational & Workforce Planning Framework and its accompanying resolution; Renee Tomina supported. A vote was taken with 14 aye votes; 0 nay votes; 0 abstained. The motion passed unanimously.*

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Beth Ardisana, David Coulter, Krista Flynn, Sarah Gonzales, Kelly Hall, Fadwa Hammoud, Mike McLauchlan, Bob McMahan, LaJune Montgomery-Tabron, Amanda Pontes, JP Rea, Bob Sutherland, Renee Tomina, Carla Walker-Miller; Nays: None; Abstained: None

Christin Armstrong, Chief Operating & Performance Officer, summarized proposed updates to both the Second Amended Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy and the Amended and Restated Public Comment Policy. Ms. Armstrong noted the proposed changes are part of a periodic review and are intended to clarify roles and responsibilities as well as broaden the opportunity for virtual public comment.

Vice Chair Flynn asked for any additional comments or questions regarding the Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy. Being none, *a motion was made by David Coulter to approve the Second Amended Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy and its accompanying resolution; LaJune Montgomery-Tabron supported. A vote was taken with 14 aye votes; 0 nay votes; 0 abstained. The motion passed unanimously.*

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Beth Ardisana, David Coulter, Krista Flynn, Sarah Gonzales, Kelly Hall, Fadwa Hammoud, Mike McLauchlan, Bob McMahan, LaJune Montgomery-Tabron, Amanda Pontes, JP Rea, Bob Sutherland, Renee Tomina, Carla Walker-Miller; Nays: None; Abstained: None

Vice Chair Flynn asked for any additional comments or questions regarding the Amended and Restated Public Comment Policy. Being none, *a motion was made by Fadwa Hammoud to approve the Amended and Restated Public Comment Policy and its*



accompanying resolution; Carla Walker-Miller supported. A vote was taken with 14 aye votes; 0 nay votes; 0 abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Beth Ardisana, David Coulter, Krista Flynn, Sarah Gonzales, Kelly Hall, Fadwa Hammoud, Mike McLauchlan, Bob McMahan, LaJune Montgomery-Tabron, Amanda Pontes, JP Rea, Bob Sutherland, Renee Tomina, Carla Walker-Miller; Nays: None; Abstained: None

VII. Strategic Planning Subcommittee Report

Ms. Pontes provided an update from the Strategic Planning Subcommittee's June meeting where it reviewed and discussed the proposed strategic plan. The Subcommittee recommended approval of the proposed strategic plan. The Subcommittee was also provided programmatic updates, budget updates, and proposed policy changes.

The Subcommittee convened again in July to review the strategic plan and the transition of MLSIC. Ms. Pontes also indicated finalized policy recommendations were discussed and an update on the budget was received.

Hannah Rethamel, Vice President, Strategy, Planning and Results, presented the multi-year strategic plan and noted the overall mission was to achieve long-term economic prosperity for all Michiganders.

Vice Chair Flynn asked for any additional comments or questions regarding the Fiscal Years 2027-2031 Strategic Plan. Being none, *a motion was made by Beth Ardisana to approve the Fiscal Years 2027-2031 Strategic Plan and its accompanying resolution; Amanda Pontes supported. A vote was taken with 14 aye votes; 0 nay votes; 0 abstained. The motion passed unanimously.*

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Beth Ardisana, David Coulter, Krista Flynn, Sarah Gonzales, Kelly Hall, Fadwa Hammoud, Mike McLauchlan, Bob McMahan, LaJune Montgomery-Tabron, Amanda Pontes, JP Rea, Bob Sutherland, Renee Tomina, Carla Walker-Miller; Nays: None; Abstained: None

VIII. Closed Session

Ms. Hammoud, recused, did not participate in deliberation, voting, or discussion.

Vice Chair Flynn advised that closed session was proposed to discuss information or records subject to attorney-client privilege. *A motion was made by JP Rea to approve the resolution authorizing closed session for purposes of discussing attorney-client privileged matters; Carla Walker-Miller supported. A vote was taken with 13 aye votes; 0 nay votes; 0 abstained; 1 recused. The motion passed.*



MICHIGAN ECONOMIC
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Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Beth Ardisana, David Coulter, Krista Flynn, Sarah Gonzales, Kelly Hall, Mike McLauchlan, Bob McMahan, LaJune Montgomery-Tabron, Amanda Pontes, JP Rea, Bob Sutherland, Renee Tomina, Carla Walker-Miller; Nays: None; Abstained: None; Recused: Fadwa Hammoud.

Closed Session began at 10:35am and ended at 10:58am.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00am.

From: [Donald F Cooney](#)
To: [MEDC Medccomments](#)
Cc: [Daniel Smith](#)
Date: Sunday, July 12, 2026 8:01:46 PM

Good evening

I was able to attend your last meeting but I will be unable to attend your meeting on Tuesday. Instead I am sending this email to urge you to cancel the \$650,000 grant to MIBA (Michigan Israel Business Accelerator). Israel has been convicted of genocide by extremely reputable Human Rights Organizations like Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch. They are forcing the Palestinian people in Gaza into a life of hunger, wretched sanitation conditions, lack of water and just misery. As former Vice Mayor of the City of Kalamazoo I know the serious needs of our own people here. Please use that money to alleviate suffering among our people here.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Don Cooney

From: [Andrea Bachman](#)
To: [MEDC Medccomments](#)
Subject: Cancel Money to MIBA
Date: Monday, July 13, 2026 10:34:18 AM

My name is Andrea Bachman and I am from Kalamazoo, MI.

I am sending this email to urge you to cancel the \$650,000 grant to MIBA (Michigan Israel Business Accelerator). Israel has been convicted of genocide by human rights organizations like Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch. This money should be spent on Michigan needs.

--

Andy/Andrea C Bachman (they/she)

From: Bill Farmer
To: [MEDC Medccomments](#)
Date: Monday, July 13, 2026 6:41:27 PM

My name is William Farmer .

I am sending this email to urge you to cancel the \$650,000 grant to MIBA (Michigan Israel Business Accelerator). Israel has been convicted of genocide by human rights organizations like Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch. This money should be spent on Michigan needs."

Yours,

William Farmer

From: [Bill Korb](#)
To: [MEDC Medccomments](#)
Subject: \$650,000 to MIBA
Date: Monday, July 13, 2026 10:53:56 AM

To whom it may concern, My name is Bill Korb. I am from Galesburg, MI.
I am sending this email to urge you to cancel the \$650,000 grant to MIBA (Michigan Israel Business Accelerator). Israel has been convicted of genocide by human rights organizations like Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch. This money should be spent on Michigan needs. Thank you for your attention, Bill

From: [Izzat Khapoya](#)
To: [MEDC Medccomments](#); [izzat khapoya](#)
Subject: MIBA
Date: Monday, July 13, 2026 5:32:58 PM

Hello,

As a Michigan resident for 50 years, I oppose the use of Michigan Public funds to support the Michigan Israel Business Accelerator (MIBA) .

I urge the Michigan Economic Development Cooperation (MEDC) to cease awarding grants to MIBA.

No moneys from Michigan (or anywhere else for that matter) should be going to the genocidal machinery that is killing innocent lives in Palestine.

Please stop.

Sincerely,

Izzy Khapoya,
Rochester hills, MI

From: [John Kleinheksel](#)
To: [MEDC Medccomments](#)
Subject: MIBA
Date: Monday, July 13, 2026 11:52:15 AM

Friends,

I'm John Kleinheksel, from Holland, MI.

I am sending this email to urge you to cancel the \$650,000 grant to MIBA (Michigan Israel Business Accelerator). Israel has been convicted of genocide by human rights organizations like Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch. This money should be spent on Michigan needs." John

--

Rev. John Kleinheksel (<kairoswestmichigan.org>)

From indifference immune to **any truth**;
from fear of facing **hidden truth**;
from cowardice that shrinks from **new truth**;
from laziness content with **half truth**;
and from pride that thinks it knows the **whole truth**,
O God of Truth, deliver us!

From: [Karen Tinklenberg](#)
To: [MEDC Medccomments](#)
Date: Monday, July 13, 2026 11:36:20 AM

Hello,

My name is Karen Tinklenberg and I live in Kalamazoo. I'm asking you to please end the \$650,000 grant to MIBA. Our state should not be funding businesses from a genocidal state. Give the money to local businesses instead.

Thank you.

From: [laila gourma](#)
To: [MEDC Medccomments](#)
Subject: Cancellation
Date: Monday, July 13, 2026 12:36:29 PM

Hi My name is LAILA I'm from Kalamazoo MI
I am sending this email to urge you to cancel the \$650,000 grant to MIBA (Michigan Israel Business Accelerator). Israel has been convicted of genocide by human rights organizations like Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch. This money should be spent on Michigan needs."

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: [galfrompal \(null\)](#)
To: [MEDC Medccomments](#)
Subject: MI Money out of MIBA
Date: Monday, July 13, 2026 3:33:04 PM

I am appalled and tired of US and Michigan tax dollars being used to invest in and support a criminal state continuing the genocide of innocent people. Get our money out of Israel!. We need affordable housing in Michigan. We need our own money invested in our public schools and universities. We need our own money invested in healthcare including mental health programs, clean water for all and affordable food .I haven't even scratched the surface where Michigan money should be invested in Michigan. Meanwhile our US tax dollars including Michigan money is being invested in Israel, paying for universal healthcare for all free, all educational institutions from 0 to 12 and universities free for all, affordable, and free housing for all, being paid for by our US tax dollars and yet here we are in the US with all of the problems we have. Shocking completely corrupt and racist. I want an end to all US investments in Israel. We have to divert from a corrupt criminal state. Let it begin here with us now in Michigan.

Lori-Kamleh Ajlouny
Educator

From: [Mark Jagner](#)
To: [MEDC Medccomments](#)
Subject: Stop Funding Michigan-Israel Business Accelerator!
Date: Monday, July 13, 2026 2:54:27 PM

Dear MEDC Executive Board Members,

Thank you for your service to the State of Michigan. I'm writing today asking you to please divest all public funds from the Michigan Israel Business Accelerator (MIBA). As a tax payer and life-time resident of Michigan, I don't want my hard-earned money going toward building business relationships between Michigan and a foreign country that has a terrible record of human right violations. Please terminate the \$650k contract with MIBA and commit to no more funding for MIBA in the future.

I find it even more upsetting that many of the companies potentially benefitting from MIBA grants are in the weapons and defense industry at a time when the US-Israel war machine continues a genocide in Gaza, and ethnic cleansing and destruction of communities in the West Bank and Southern Lebanon.

Sincerely,

Mark Jagner

Ypsilanti, Michigan

“Those who turn a blind eye to injustice actually perpetuate injustice. If you are neutral in a situation of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor.” - Desmond Tutu

From: [martin chilcutt](#)
To: [MEDC Medccomments](#)
Subject: Cancel MIBD
Date: Monday, July 13, 2026 11:47:12 AM

cancel the MIBD grant for Israel.

As a disabled veteran I am opposed to giving money to Israel due to their Genocide!!!

Martin Chilcutt

From: [Mary Ellen Gondeck](#)
To: [MEDC Medccomments](#)
Cc: [Mary Ellen Gondeck](#)
Subject: Michigan Israel Business Accelerator
Date: Monday, July 13, 2026 10:43:36 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good morning, my name is Mary Ellen Gondeck and I live in Kalamazoo.

I am concerned about the proposal to grant \$650,000 to the MIBA (Michigan Israel Business Accelerator). Because of Israel being convicted genocide by human rights organizations like Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, I would rather see that money going to needs here in our state.

Thank you,

Mary Ellen

Mary Ellen Gondeck
3301 Gull Rd. Apt. 514
Kalamazoo, MI 49048
313-878-5936



From: [Steve Friday](#)
To: [MEDC Medccomments](#)
Subject: Public Statement: Reject the \$1 Million LDI Request for the Michigan Israel Business Accelerator
Date: Monday, July 13, 2026 7:16:34 AM

Members of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation Board and Staff,

I am writing as a Michigan resident, veteran, clinical social worker, taxpayer, and community advocate to follow up regarding the request for \$1 million in Legislatively Directed Investment funding for the Michigan Israel Business Accelerator (MIBA).

I understand that MEDC previously chose to send this matter to committee for further consideration and that the Board will meet tomorrow to discuss whether this funding should move forward. I sincerely hope the committee carefully reviewed the concerns raised by members of the public, examined MIBA's activities and relationships, and advised the Board not to approve this request.

My position remains unequivocal: MEDC should not give \$1 million in public funding to MIBA.

This is not simply an abstract objection to international trade. MIBA has promoted and facilitated relationships involving Israeli military and defense companies, including Elbit Systems, Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), and Rafael Advanced Defense Systems.

These are not ordinary technology companies.

Elbit Systems is one of Israel's largest military technology and defense contractors. Israel Aerospace Industries is a state-owned aerospace and defense company. Rafael Advanced Defense Systems is an Israeli state-owned defense company and weapons developer.

MIBA's connections to companies operating in the weapons and military technology sector cannot simply be repackaged under the sanitized language of “innovation,” “economic development,” or “business acceleration.”

Words matter, but so do facts.

Drones are weapons systems when they are designed and deployed for military operations. Missile technology is weapons technology. Military surveillance and targeting systems are part of warfare. Defense electronics and weapons platforms do not become morally neutral simply because they are discussed in a boardroom rather than on a battlefield.

Michigan taxpayers deserve an honest discussion about what they are being asked to subsidize.

At a time when the Israeli military's conduct in Gaza and the occupied Palestinian territories has produced catastrophic civilian death, mass displacement, destruction of healthcare infrastructure, and allegations of genocide and other grave violations of international law, MEDC cannot reasonably treat relationships with Israel's military-industrial sector as ethically irrelevant to a public funding decision.

The public has a right to ask whether Michigan tax dollars are helping companies connected to

military operations accused of devastating civilian populations expand their commercial footprint, establish partnerships, or gain access to Michigan's economic infrastructure.

As a veteran, I find the casual normalization of weapons and military technology as ordinary economic development deeply disturbing. I understand what military systems are designed to do. I also understand the danger of creating distance between the people who authorize, finance, manufacture, and profit from weapons and the human beings who ultimately experience those weapons.

As a clinical social worker, my professional ethics require me to consider human dignity, social justice, and the consequences institutions and systems have on human beings. My ethical and moral compass does not disappear because a weapons manufacturer is described as a technology company or because public money is routed through an economic development organization.

Michigan's budget and economic development resources are statements of our priorities.

Our schools need investment. Families are struggling with housing and healthcare costs. Veterans need accessible services. Communities need safe infrastructure. Local businesses and entrepreneurs need capital and meaningful support. Municipalities throughout Michigan are attempting to meet growing human needs while repeatedly being told that resources are limited.

Yet we are considering giving \$1 million in public money to an organization specifically dedicated to accelerating business relationships between Michigan and Israel, including relationships involving Israel's defense industry.

Why?

Why should a Michigan teacher, autoworker, veteran, social worker, nurse, small-business owner, or struggling family subsidize this?

If MEDC believes this is an appropriate use of \$1 million in public resources, then the Board owes the people of Michigan a direct and transparent explanation. Not slogans about innovation. Not generalized claims about economic activity. The public deserves to know which companies have benefited from MIBA's assistance, what military or defense relationships MIBA has facilitated, what due diligence MEDC has conducted regarding those companies, and what ethical standards—if any—are applied before Michigan public money supports these relationships.

Economic development cannot be separated from an ethical and moral compass.

“Jobs,” “innovation,” and “investment” cannot become magic words that prevent us from asking what industries we are supporting, who profits, and who bears the human cost.

The MEDC Board now has an opportunity to demonstrate that the decision to send this matter to committee was meaningful and that the voices of Michigan residents were actually heard.

I sincerely hope the committee advised the Board to reject this request.

I respectfully, urgently, and unequivocally ask the MEDC Board to vote against the \$1 million LDI request for the Michigan Israel Business Accelerator.

Michigan's resources should be invested in Michigan's people—not used to subsidize an organization helping expand relationships with foreign weapons and defense companies.

Do not fund the MIBA LDI.

Respectfully,

Steven Friday, LCSW

U.S. Air Force Veteran

Michigan Resident and Taxpayer

From: [Tara Ward](#)
To: [MEDC Medccomments](#)
Subject: MIBA Funding
Date: Monday, July 13, 2026 1:42:56 PM

I strongly urge MEDC, on behalf of the American public, who broadly disapproves of Israel's behavior on the world stage, and on behalf of international human rights law, whose bodies have legitimately deterred that Israel has committed genocide in Gaza, to cease funding towards MIBA, and by extension, to cease funding to the Israeli defense companies who are party to this genocide.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Deb Hansen](#)
To: [MEDC Medccomments](#)
Subject: written comments for july 14 hearing
Date: Monday, July 13, 2026 2:29:07 PM
Attachments: [669fbeac-cd63-4098-8b23-3ce23b70961e.png](#)
[image.png](#)

thank you for the opportunity to comment.

i do not support using public funds going to the michigan israel business accelerator.

with a \$1 trillion dollar war budget, it seems almost quaint to suggest that michigan public funds not be used to accelerate the militarization of the land of fresh water. life is sacred, and we share a common responsibility to protect and nurture life.

israel is the leader in global surveillance and population control according to the international jewish anti-zionist network. i'd encourage you to factor the material in this brochure in your assessment.

ijan.org

ice and major police forces in the u.s. have been training in israel since 9/11. we are seeing the violent effects of that alliance, including lethal violence, playing out in u.s. streets. the gaza playbook ricochets back.

<https://responsiblestatecraft.org/israel-ice-minneapolis/>
ibtimes.co.uk

last year, the governor proudly announced that the saab munitions plant, under construction in grayling is "good for michigan's manufacture sector." does that mean that genocide, ethnic cleansing, the traumatization and maiming of children, the bombing of hospitals, targeting journalists and health care workers, systematic sexual assault of prisoners can be brushed aside as just another business opportunity? this is a piece i wrote for riverwise magazine: "war is 100% america, and michigan wants its fair share."

riverwisedetroit.org

if we as a human family cannot agree that harming children is wrong. absolutely wrong, what basis is there for a common life? as you reflect on the miba decision, i would ask you to consider how 6-year-old hind rajab was murdered by the israel occupation forces and imagine this cruelty being inflicted on a child that is dear to you. this is a link to her story.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-68261286>



it's the #1 social plague: indifference to the suffering of others.

respectfully,
rev. deb hansen
levering

From: [Donald Gregory](#)
To: [MEDC Medccomments](#)
Subject: MIBA Funding
Date: Monday, July 13, 2026 1:58:06 PM

Please do NOT provide any funding for the Michigan Israel Business Accelerator (MIBA). Michigan should not be funding or cooperating in any way with a nation that is in violation of our own, Leahy, and international law.

--

Donald Gregory
Cell: 425-614-6233

On two occasions I have been asked by members of Parliament, 'Pray, Mr. Babbage, if you put into the machine wrong figures, will the right answers come out?' I am not able rightly to apprehend the kind of confusion of ideas that could provoke such a question. - Charles Babbage

From: Major Stevens
To: [MEDC Medccomments](#)
Subject: MIBA Grant Termination
Date: Monday, July 13, 2026 12:37:44 PM

Hello,

I'm Major Stevens. I've lived in Michigan my entire life and I am a firm believer of human rights. What we are doing with this grant is allowing a genocidal state organization invest in their own corporations. However, we need to create businesses here in the United States and in Michigan. As such I believe we need to instead invest this accelerator money into Michigan companies or American companies that we can incentivize to come here. I would rather not invest in genocide and in something more worthwhile.

Major Stevens

From: [Warren Stuck](#)
To: [MEDC Medccomments](#)
Subject: Money to the MIBA must stop
Date: Monday, July 13, 2026 7:10:46 PM

My name is Warren Stuck. I am from Three Rivers. Michigan, born and raised in Hillsdale and Morenci Michigan

I am sending this email to urge you to cancel the \$650,000 grant to MIBA (Michigan Israel Business Accelerator). Israel has been convicted of genocide by human rights organizations like Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch. This money should be spent on Michigan needs, not ethnic cleansing.

From: [Ineke Way](#)
To: [MEDC Medccomments](#)
Cc: [Ineke Way](#)
Subject: Please stop funding MIBA
Date: Monday, July 13, 2026 11:47:56 PM

July 13, 2026

I am writing to urge the MEDC Executive Committee to immediately end its funding of MIBA for three specific reasons:

1. MIBA has connections with Israeli companies and entities (including Elbit Systems, Rafael Capture Systems, and Israel Aerospace Industries) that are connected to Israel's apartheid and genocide against Palestinian people.
2. It is unacceptable to use funds from MEDC, a public/private entity, that should be serving the public in Michigan rather than Israeli military interests.
3. There is a significant conflict of interest with the CEO and Director of International Trade for MEDC also serving on the board of directors for MIBA. This is also in conflict with Michigan's law on the standard of conduct for public officers and employees.

Please, seize this opportunity to be good stewards of Michigan public and private funds to serve Michigan residents.

Respectfully,

Ineke Way
1938 Oakland Dr.
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
inekew786@gmail.com

From: [Gina Aranki](#)
To: [MEDC Medcccomments](#)
Subject: NO to Taxpayer \$\$ Going to MIBA
Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2026 11:51:15 AM

To the Executive Committee:

I write to voice my strong opposition to a single dime of MI taxpayer money going to support the Michigan Israel Business Accelerator project. At a time when the will of the majority of Americans is against selling or giving bombs and weapons to destroy civilian infrastructure and society in Palestine and Lebanon, this proposal is utterly tone-deaf.

Israel has been committing crimes like this for decades, and it is only now that people are waking up and paying attention--not only to those crimes, but to the potential alternative uses of all that money, like helping Americans have health care and affordable housing and good roads and schools and functioning dams and clean water and air, which are the antithesis of bombing the hell out of people, land, water. The impacts of Israel's continued bombing campaigns are that those areas will likely be uninhabitable for a hundred years, maybe longer. How anyone can think that the response to one crime is to perpetuate another, even more horrific one, that is going to impact Israel as well as its targets (Israelis must breathe the same air, eat from the same soil, drink from the same water).

I urge you to vote NO on this proposal, and to work for economic development that is rooted in peaceful activities, good for people and the planet. I live in Traverse City, a place that understands that its economy is closely tied to its natural beauty. Let's move Michigan in that direction, and stop its militarization.

Thanks.

From: [Steve Friday](#)
To: [MEDC Medccomments](#)
Subject: Request for Public Timeline and Process – Finance Committee Review of MIBA
Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2026 6:13:24 PM

Thank you for again allowing members of the public to address the MEDC Executive Committee regarding the Michigan Israel Business Accelerator at today's July 14, 2026 meeting.

This issue has now been raised through public comment at two Executive Committee meetings. At today's meeting, the public was informed that the matter is being referred to the Finance Committee. However, no timeline was provided for the Finance Committee's consideration of the matter, nor was the public informed when or how we will learn the outcome of that review.

Regardless of MEDC's position regarding whether meetings of the Finance Committee are subject to the Michigan Open Meetings Act, I believe the public has a reasonable and compelling interest in knowing what happens next.

Please clarify:

1. The full and official name of the Finance Committee to which the MIBA matter has been referred;
2. The authority under which that committee was established and its current membership;
3. The specific scope of the MIBA matter referred to the committee;
4. Whether the committee will evaluate, deliberate upon, or make recommendations concerning MEDC funding or MEDC's relationship with MIBA;
5. When the Finance Committee is expected to consider the MIBA matter;
6. Whether the date of that consideration will be publicly disclosed;
7. Whether a written recommendation, report, memorandum, or other record will be produced;
8. Whether that recommendation or record will be made available to the public;
9. When the matter is expected to return to the MEDC Executive Committee; and
10. How members of the public who have provided comments regarding MIBA will be informed of the outcome.

The public has now appeared before the Executive Committee twice to raise serious concerns regarding the proposed use of \$1 million in public funding. Referring the matter to a committee without providing any public timeline, process for follow-up, or explanation of when the public will learn the result creates a significant transparency concern.

Public comment should be more than an opportunity to speak into the record. When a public body responds to sustained public concern by referring a matter for further substantive review, the public should be able to follow that matter through the governmental process and understand when and how a recommendation or decision will be made.

I am also requesting clarification of MEDC's position regarding whether the Finance Committee is a "public body" under MCL 15.262 in light of the Michigan Supreme Court's July 31, 2024 decision in Pinebrook Warren, LLC v. City of Warren. Specifically, please identify the legal basis for MEDC's position if it maintains that the Finance Committee's

consideration of the MIBA matter is not subject to the Open Meetings Act.

Thank you for your attention to this request. I look forward to a clear explanation of the process and timeline for the Finance Committee's review.

Steven Friday, LCSW

210-488-5259

On Mon, Jul 13, 2026, 7:16 AM Steve Friday <sfriday2015@gmail.com> wrote:

Members of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation Board and Staff,

I am writing as a Michigan resident, veteran, clinical social worker, taxpayer, and community advocate to follow up regarding the request for \$1 million in Legislatively Directed Investment funding for the Michigan Israel Business Accelerator (MIBA).

I understand that MEDC previously chose to send this matter to committee for further consideration and that the Board will meet tomorrow to discuss whether this funding should move forward. I sincerely hope the committee carefully reviewed the concerns raised by members of the public, examined MIBA's activities and relationships, and advised the Board not to approve this request.

My position remains unequivocal: MEDC should not give \$1 million in public funding to MIBA.

This is not simply an abstract objection to international trade. MIBA has promoted and facilitated relationships involving Israeli military and defense companies, including Elbit Systems, Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), and Rafael Advanced Defense Systems.

These are not ordinary technology companies.

Elbit Systems is one of Israel's largest military technology and defense contractors. Israel Aerospace Industries is a state-owned aerospace and defense company. Rafael Advanced Defense Systems is an Israeli state-owned defense company and weapons developer.

MIBA's connections to companies operating in the weapons and military technology sector cannot simply be repackaged under the sanitized language of "innovation," "economic development," or "business acceleration."

Words matter, but so do facts.

Drones are weapons systems when they are designed and deployed for military operations. Missile technology is weapons technology. Military surveillance and targeting systems are part of warfare. Defense electronics and weapons platforms do not become morally neutral simply because they are discussed in a boardroom rather than on a battlefield.

Michigan taxpayers deserve an honest discussion about what they are being asked to subsidize.

At a time when the Israeli military's conduct in Gaza and the occupied Palestinian territories

has produced catastrophic civilian death, mass displacement, destruction of healthcare infrastructure, and allegations of genocide and other grave violations of international law, MEDC cannot reasonably treat relationships with Israel's military-industrial sector as ethically irrelevant to a public funding decision.

The public has a right to ask whether Michigan tax dollars are helping companies connected to military operations accused of devastating civilian populations expand their commercial footprint, establish partnerships, or gain access to Michigan's economic infrastructure.

As a veteran, I find the casual normalization of weapons and military technology as ordinary economic development deeply disturbing. I understand what military systems are designed to do. I also understand the danger of creating distance between the people who authorize, finance, manufacture, and profit from weapons and the human beings who ultimately experience those weapons.

As a clinical social worker, my professional ethics require me to consider human dignity, social justice, and the consequences institutions and systems have on human beings. My ethical and moral compass does not disappear because a weapons manufacturer is described as a technology company or because public money is routed through an economic development organization.

Michigan's budget and economic development resources are statements of our priorities.

Our schools need investment. Families are struggling with housing and healthcare costs. Veterans need accessible services. Communities need safe infrastructure. Local businesses and entrepreneurs need capital and meaningful support. Municipalities throughout Michigan are attempting to meet growing human needs while repeatedly being told that resources are limited.

Yet we are considering giving \$1 million in public money to an organization specifically dedicated to accelerating business relationships between Michigan and Israel, including relationships involving Israel's defense industry.

Why?

Why should a Michigan teacher, autoworker, veteran, social worker, nurse, small-business owner, or struggling family subsidize this?

If MEDC believes this is an appropriate use of \$1 million in public resources, then the Board owes the people of Michigan a direct and transparent explanation. Not slogans about innovation. Not generalized claims about economic activity. The public deserves to know which companies have benefited from MIBA's assistance, what military or defense relationships MIBA has facilitated, what due diligence MEDC has conducted regarding those companies, and what ethical standards—if any—are applied before Michigan public money supports these relationships.

Economic development cannot be separated from an ethical and moral compass.

“Jobs,” “innovation,” and “investment” cannot become magic words that prevent us from asking what industries we are supporting, who profits, and who bears the human cost.

The MEDC Board now has an opportunity to demonstrate that the decision to send this

matter to committee was meaningful and that the voices of Michigan residents were actually heard.

I sincerely hope the committee advised the Board to reject this request.

I respectfully, urgently, and unequivocally ask the MEDC Board to vote against the \$1 million LDI request for the Michigan Israel Business Accelerator.

Michigan's resources should be invested in Michigan's people—not used to subsidize an organization helping expand relationships with foreign weapons and defense companies.

Do not fund the MIBA LDI.

Respectfully,

Steven Friday, LCSW

U.S. Air Force Veteran

Michigan Resident and Taxpayer

From: [R.K](#)
To: [MEDC Medccomments](#)
Subject: Investing Michigan's money on the needs of Michiganders, not MIBA
Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2026 1:58:40 PM

Dear MEDC Leadership,

I am writing to demand that the Michigan Economic Development Corporation immediately terminate the Michigan Israel Business Accelerator's (MIBA) current \$650,000 grant and commit to awarding no future contracts, grants, loans, or other public funding to MIBA.

Michigan taxpayers should not be forced to subsidize an organization whose mission is to expand business and investment with Israel while that state faces credible allegations of genocide, apartheid, and unlawful occupation under international law. Public dollars should strengthen Michigan communities—not facilitate international business relationships that many residents believe contribute to grave human rights violations.

MIBA is not simply a trade organization. By its own description, it is working to make Southeast Michigan a hub for Israeli defense technology companies. It has promoted and facilitated relationships with companies including Elbit Systems, Rafael, Israel Aerospace Industries, and Capture Systems—companies connected to Israel's military and defense sector. MIBA has also publicly stated its goal of leveraging Michigan's role in the Middle East's "New World Order" and expanding its influence within state government.

Since its founding, MIBA has received more than \$6 million in Michigan public funding, including its current \$650,000 MEDC grant. It has also sought an additional \$1 million in Legislatively Directed Spending—funds that should be invested in schools, public health, infrastructure, housing, emergency services, and other urgent community needs, not in facilitating foreign business partnerships.

Equally troubling are the serious concerns regarding conflicts of interest. MEDC CEO Quentin Messer and MEDC Director of International Trade Alyssa Tracey both serve on MIBA's Board of Directors. Ms. Tracey also serves as the administrator of MIBA's current MEDC grant. MIBA's own grant agreement prohibits conflicts of interest, and Michigan law establishes ethical standards for public officials involved in contracts with organizations in which they have personal interests. At a minimum, these overlapping roles create an appearance that undermines public trust and warrants immediate independent review.

The MEDC exists to serve the people of Michigan—not to subsidize organizations advancing foreign defense industry interests. Every public dollar awarded to MIBA is a dollar that cannot be invested in Michigan workers, entrepreneurs, schools, healthcare, infrastructure, or affordable housing.

I urge the MEDC to demonstrate ethical leadership and fiscal responsibility by:

- Immediately terminating MIBA's current \$650,000 grant.
- Refusing all future grants, contracts, loans, or other financial assistance to MIBA.
- Conducting an independent review of all MEDC funding provided to MIBA and any actual or perceived conflicts of interest.
- Redirecting these public resources toward programs that directly benefit Michigan

residents and communities.

Michigan taxpayers deserve an economic development agency that puts Michigan first. The MEDC should end its financial support for MIBA and ensure that public funds are used to improve the lives of the people who provide them—not to underwrite international business ventures connected to ongoing human rights abuses.

I urge you to act without delay.

Sincerely,

Dr. R. Khattab

Ferndale, Michigan

From: [SF 3312](#)
To: [MEDC Medccomments](#)
Subject: Cancel grant to MIBA
Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2026 8:21:40 AM

My name is Sana. I am from Michigan.

I am sending this email to urge you to cancel the \$650,000 grant to MIBA (Michigan Israel Business Accelerator). Israel has been convicted of genocide by human rights organizations like Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch. This money should be spent on Michigan needs.