Andrea L. Claus
Director of Estate Planning, Probate and Trust Administration

5 Common Estate Planning Mistakes

#1: Not having a plan at all
Failing to plan means you relinquish, to the state, the right to decide who will receive your property and serve as your executor.

#2: Not thinking through a well-intended gift
Beneficiaries with Special Needs can be negatively impacted if not properly planned for.

#3: Not planning for minor children
Having a plan in place that addresses both inheritance issues and guardianship of minor children is crucial for any parent or guardian.

#4: Not updating an established estate plan
Changes to state laws, changes to federal tax law, separation/death of a loved one, or changes in beneficiary circumstance are all examples of reasons to review your plan regularly.

#5: Not having a proper estate plan in place
DIY is great for crafts and home projects, but attempting a do-it-yourself estate plan can have unforeseen consequences in the event of incapacity or after death.

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Christine Mackay, city of Phoenix Community and Economic Development director, talks about business growth in Sunnyslope and around the city at the Hatcher Urban Business Alliance (theHUB) meeting Aug. 8 in Sunnyslope (photo courtesy of theHUB).

Hatcher Road group gets boost from the city

By Colleen Sparks

A group of business and property owners in the Hatcher Road area is thrilled that the City of Phoenix is on board with their efforts to revitalize their neighborhoods.

Cheers erupted and supportive words were expressed often during and after a presentation city of Phoenix Community and Economic Development director Christine Mackay gave at the Hatcher Urban Business Alliance (theHUB) meeting Aug. 8 in Sunnyslope. Mackay talked about Phoenix's economy, how to bring new businesses onto Hatcher Road and ways the city can help with small business development and retention at the regular theHUB meeting at HonorHealth John C. Lincoln Medical Center.

A group of business owners along Hatcher Road, which formed the Hatcher Urban Business Alliance (theHUB) more than a year ago, is determined to clean up the business corridor, and rejuvenate the surrounding Sunnyslope area. The group charges no dues and has about 120 members.

Mackay answered participants' questions, talked about ways the city can assist with revamping vacant properties and discussed grants and funding mechanisms neighborhoods may be eligible to seek. She explained the differences between business improvement districts and opportunity zones and how they benefit neighborhoods and business communities.

"What you guys are doing here in the HUB is amazing," Mackay said. "We're super excited to work with you in Sunnyslope in the HUB. We can drive new business, new development, drive down vacancies."

According to Mackay, Phoenix is the fastest-growing city in the country and is "attracting high-tech, knowledge economy, very robust jobs."

Mackay said she and her economic development team could help communities market their areas and drive tenants into buildings. She, members of theHUB and Phoenix Councilwoman Debra Stark, whose district includes Hatcher Road, plan to create marketing materials to try to attract investment in property in Sunnyslope. The vacant real estate in the area is being documented to try to get businesses to expand into the area.

"You bake the cake," Mackay said. "We just get to come in and put a little icing on it."

Caroline Lobo, co-chairwoman of theHUB, told Mackay she believes Hatcher Road is not up to the same standards as other streets in the city and asked how Phoenix could help improve it with enhanced trees, landscaping and other amenities. It also has poor lighting and sidewalks, Lobo said.

Mackay said she spoke to Stark to see if the city could "reprioritize" the road. She also said the Opportunity Zone program, which was established after Congressional approval in 2017, was created to increase investors' investments into specific, low- and median-income communities. Part of