



TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Lee R. Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: March 18, 2014

TITLE: Consent Resolution – Project Metal – Qualified Target Industry (QTI) Tax
Refund Incentive

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Commission adopt an amended resolution approving the local financial support commitment for Project Metal.

Background

Project Metal (now known as Nystar after an official announcement of the company's relocation by Governor Rick Scott on October 17, 2013) will have its corporate headquarters for its worldwide mining operations in downtown Fort Lauderdale. Nystar operates an integrated mining and metal business. The company has market leading and growing positions in their industry with operations located in Europe, the Americas, China and Australia and employs over 7,000 people across five continents worldwide.

Resolution 13-192, adopted on October 15, 2013, stated that the company's average annual salary will be \$143,000, which is 332% of the Broward County average wage. The amended resolution will confirm that the company's average employee salary will be \$88,000, which is 200% of the Broward County average wage. The average salary amount modification in the resolution is consistent with the application filed with the State of Florida Office of Economic Opportunity. With the average salary remaining at 200% of the Broward County average wage, the company is still eligible to receive the maximum grant award.

The total QTI award will be \$7,000 per job or \$175,000. The State of Florida would provide 80% (\$140,000) and the remaining 20% (\$35,000) would be provided by the City, paid out over a five year period beginning in Fiscal Year 2015.

Highlights of Incentive:

- Nystar will create 25 new jobs.
- Employee average salary is \$88,000
- Nystar is leasing approximately 7,170 square feet of space at 200 East Las Olas Boulevard and plans to make an initial capital investment of \$150,000.

Resource Impact

No current year budgetary impact. Funding for fiscal year 2015 through fiscal year 2019 is subject to approval and appropriation of the annual operating budget.

Strategic Connections:

This item is a *Press Play Fort Lauderdale Strategic Plan 2018 initiative*, included within the *Business Development Cylinder of Excellence*, specifically advancing:

- **Goal 7:** Be a well-positioned City within the global economic and tourism markets of the South Florida region, leveraging our airports, port, and rail connections.
- **Objective 1:** Define, cultivate, and attract targeted and emerging industries.

This item also advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 vision plan: We are Prosperous*.

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