



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

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

DATE: July 1, 2014

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

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Commission adopt a resolution recommending that Project VCF be approved as a Qualified Target Industry Business Applicant pursuant to Section 288.106, Florida Statutes, and providing that funds are available as local financial support through the Qualified Targeted Industry (QTI) Program..

Background

Project VCF is the relocation of the national headquarters for a cloud-based software development and manufacturing company to Fort Lauderdale. The relocation would result in the creation of 40 new jobs in the high-tech industry over the next three years.

The total QTI award will be \$3,000 per job or \$120,000. The State of Florida would provide 80% (\$96,000) and the remaining 20% (\$24,000) would be provided by the City of Fort Lauderdale, paid out over a five year period beginning in Fiscal Year 2016.

Highlights of the incentive award:

- Project VCF will create 40 new jobs.
- Average employee wages are in excess of 115% of the Broward County average annual wage of at least \$50,484. Average wages for Project VCF are \$52,000.
- VCF will lease approximately 12,500 square feet of space in a multi-phase effort that will include renovations, office equipment purchases and research and development costs over the course of the next three years. Total capital investment for all phases will be approximately \$12.25 MM.
- Approval of Project VCF would add to the recent list of expansion and job growth announcements by companies such as Citrix, Prolexic Technologies and Anthem Education.

Resource Impact

No current year budgetary impact. Funding for fiscal year 2016 through fiscal year 2020 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*.

Attachment:

Exhibit 1 - Resolution

Prepared by: Al Battle Jr., Economic and Community Reinvestment Manager

Department Director: Greg Brewton, Sustainable Development
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