



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING

#17-0009

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

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

DATE: January 4, 2017

TITLE: Resolution Authorizing Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund Incentive for
Project 44

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Commission adopt a resolution recommending that Project 44 be approved for the City's Local Match Program in support of a Florida Qualified Target Industry (QTI) company pursuant to Section 288.106, Florida Statutes, and providing funds are available as local financial support through the QTI program.

Background

Project 44 is the expansion of a company in Fort Lauderdale. This project represents a great opportunity to support the expansion of a successful professional/finance service company in Fort Lauderdale. Additionally, as the professional services cluster continues to develop, it is foreseeable that the City of Fort Lauderdale will experience sustained job and economic growth in parallel. Establishing this project would further allow the City to compete with other international markets and serve as a validation to the area's economic development strategy.

Project 44 is a joint effort between the State of Florida, Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance, and the City of Fort Lauderdale. The total QTI incentive award is \$1,200,000, of which the State of Florida would provide 80% (\$960,000) and the City of Fort Lauderdale would provide 20% (\$240,000), paid annually over a period of eight years. The City's share of the QTI award in the first year (2018) is estimated to be \$8,100.00.

Highlights of the incentive award:

- Project 44 will create 200 high skill/high wage jobs with an average annual wage of \$69,050 (150% of the private sector average wage in Broward County). Project 44 meets the criteria for designation as a high impact sector project.
- Validates the City of Fort Lauderdale and the State of Florida's commitment to facilitating employment opportunities within new and existing industries in the Professional Services sector.

- Secures an estimated capital investment of approximately \$2,000,000 for renovations, build-out, and furnishing of a leased 88,000 square-foot office facility.

Resource Impact

There is no current year budgetary impact for this Fiscal Year associated with this action. Funding for Fiscal Year 2018 through Fiscal Year 2025 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*.

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – Projected Funding Analysis

Exhibit 2 – Resolution

Prepared by: Michael Chen, Citywide Economic & Business Development Manager,
Department of Sustainable Development

Department Director: Anthony Gregory Fajardo, Sustainable Development