



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING

#18-0021

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

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

DATE: January 23, 2018

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

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Commission adopt a resolution approving Project Harrison 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 Harrison is a corporate retention and expansion of a local corporate headquarters operation. Harrison is classified as a technology company with exceptionally high wages and serves as a validation to the City's economic development strategy.

Project Harrison is a joint effort between the State of Florida, the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance, and the City of Fort Lauderdale. The total QTI incentive award will not exceed \$280,000, of which the State of Florida would provide 80% (\$224,000) and the City of Fort Lauderdale would provide 20% (\$56,000). The award will be paid annually, in amounts not to exceed the values depicted in Exhibit 1. The City's share of the QTI award in the first year (FY2018/19) is estimated to be \$6,650.00.

Highlights of the incentive award:

- Project Harrison will create 40 new, high skill, and high wage jobs with an average annual wage of \$95,718, which meets or exceeds 200% of the private sector average wage in Broward County.
- Secures a conservatively estimated capital investment of \$1,000,000 for renovations and expansion of office space to be leased in Fort Lauderdale.
- Facilitates the retention of 163 Fort Lauderdale employees.
- Ensures the company and jobs would not be lost to a competitor state, namely Washington D.C., Virginia; and/or Maryland.

- Validates the City of Fort Lauderdale, Broward County and the State of Florida's dedication to being the most business friendly state in the nation by keeping taxes low, streamlining regulations, and investing in education.
- Demonstrates the City of Fort Lauderdale and the State of Florida are committed to facilitating employment opportunities within new and existing industries.
- Complements our emphasis on "Targeted Industries" such as Technology.

Resource Impact

There is no budgetary impact for this Fiscal Year associated with this action. Funding for Fiscal Year 2018/19 through Fiscal Year 2023/24 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 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, Economic & Business Development Manager, Department of Sustainable Development

Department Director: Anthony Greg Fajardo, Sustainable Development