



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE**  
**City Commission Agenda Memo**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

**#16-0814**

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

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

**DATE:** July 12, 2016

**TITLE:** Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund Incentive for Project Washington

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**Recommendation**

It is recommended that the City Commission adopt a resolution recommending that Project Washington 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 that funds are available as local financial support through the QTI program.

**Background**

Project Washington is the relocation of a Professional Services company to Fort Lauderdale and Broward County. Project Washington is a well-established company providing healthcare staffing services in the US with a highly regarded and trusted brand within the healthcare industry. This project represents a great opportunity to support the relocation of a successful healthcare staffing company to Fort Lauderdale. Establishing this project would further allow the City to compete with larger markets both domestic and international, and serve as a validation to the area's economic development strategy.

Project Washington 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 \$180,000, of which the State of Florida would provide 80% (\$144,000) and the City of Fort Lauderdale would provide 20% (\$36,000), paid annually over a period of six years. The City's share of the QTI award in the first year is estimated to be \$6,000.00.

Highlights of the incentive award:

- Project Washington will create 60 high skill/high wage jobs with an average annual wage of \$52,938 (115% of the private sector average wage in Broward County).

- 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 a conservatively estimated capital investment of approximately \$95,000 for applicable renovations and build-out of a leased 15,000 sq. ft. facility.

### **Resource Impact**

There is no current fiscal year budgetary impact associated with this action. Funding for Fiscal Year 2017 through Fiscal Year 2022 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 – QTI/HIP Local Match Tracking Analysis

Exhibit 2 – Resolution

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Prepared by: Michael Chen, Economic & Business Development Manager

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