



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

#18-1317

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

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

DATE: December 18, 2018

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

Recommendation

It is recommended the City Commission adopt a resolution approving Project Ranger 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 Ranger is the relocation of the corporate headquarters of a holding company for a national retail/service center operation. The current corporate headquarters is on the east coast of the United States.

Project Ranger represents an opportunity to secure a corporate headquarters operation that will strengthen the City of Fort Lauderdale's reputation as a business destination and assist in keeping the City competitive in the national market. The direct economic impact created by the 18 high-skill/high-wage jobs with an average wage of \$97,374 (200% of the private sector average wage in Broward County) over the next 6 years with a capital investment of approximately \$200,000.00 will create a chain reaction of direct and indirect spending that will greatly benefit our local, regional and state economies. Based on the parameters of the project, Project Ranger qualifies for \$7,000 per net new job created. Project Ranger 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 \$126,000, of which the State of Florida would provide 80% (\$100,800) and the City of Fort Lauderdale would provide 20% (\$25,200). 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 (FY2020/21) is estimated to be \$3,500.00.

Highlights of the incentive award:

- Project Ranger will create a minimum of 18 high-skill/high-wage jobs with an average wage of \$97,374 (200% of the private sector average wage in Broward County).

- Secures a conservatively estimated capital investment of \$200,000.00 for tenant improvements, and the purchase of office equipment.
- Ensures the project would not be lost to a competitor state.
- Demonstrates that the City of Fort Lauderdale and the State of Florida are committed to facilitating employment opportunities within new and existing industries.
- Project Ranger will further enhance the City of Fort Lauderdale reputation as a desirable destination for Headquarter operations.

Resource Impact

There is no budgetary impact for this Fiscal Year associated with this action. Funding for Fiscal Year 2020/21 through Fiscal Year 2025/26 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 – Funding Analysis

Exhibit 2 – Resolution

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

Department Director: Anthony Greg Fajardo, Sustainable Development