

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

#17-0565

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

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

DATE: May 16, 2017

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

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Commission adopt a resolution approving Project Pierce 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 Pierce is a medical technology company focused on the development and commercialization of systems to improve the cost-effectiveness of examination procedures and enhancement of the experience for physicians and patients. Pierce has subsidiaries in the U.S. and the Middle East. Supporting this project would further elevate the City's recognition as a technology and life sciences hub and serve as a validation to the area's economic development strategy.

Project Pierce 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 \$250,000, of which the State of Florida would provide 80% (\$200,000) and the City of Fort Lauderdale would provide 20% (\$50,000), paid annually over a period of six years. The City's share of the QTI award in the first year (Fiscal Year 2018/19) is estimated to be \$2,500.00.

Highlights of the incentive award:

- Project Pierce will create 50 high skill/high wage jobs with an average annual wage of \$95,718 (200% 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 Transportation Services sector.

- Secures an estimated capital investment of approximately \$1.06 million to establish their office.

Resource Impact

There is no current year 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 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 Greg Fajardo, Sustainable Development