



Staff Report

File #: 15-397, **Version:** 1

Agenda Date: 11/10/2015

Subject:

Resolution approving B5051443633 as a Qualified Applicant for the Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund Program.

Recommended Action

Adopt a Resolution approving B5051443633 as a qualified applicant pursuant to Section 288.106, Florida Statutes, and identify sources of local county financial support of Project B5051443633 as local participation in the Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund Program.

Strategic Plan:

Foster continual economic growth and vitality

4:1: Proactively attract and retain businesses with targeted jobs to the county and the region.

Summary:

Project B5051443633 is a business services firm and this project represents an expansion of its regional headquarters, with both job creation and capital investment components.

Background Information:

Project B5051443633 is a business services firm that wishes to expand its regional headquarters within Pinellas County. The economic impact of the project's capital investment is \$1.9 million. An estimated 27 employees are projected to be hired with annual pay scales of at least 115% of the average annual wage for the State of Florida, which is \$42,904. These earnings would result in an economic impact of \$1.8 million and a total of 46 direct and indirect new jobs. Additional sites the company is considering are in Tennessee and South Carolina.

The economic impacts were calculated using the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis Regional Input Modeling System (RIMS II) Model for Pinellas County.

Fiscal Impact:

The total tax refund is \$135,000 which is calculated at \$5,000 per job with a total of 27 new jobs. The \$5,000 per job calculation is based on pay scales of at least 115% of the State of Florida's average annual wage, and a high impact sector bonus. This incentive returns a portion of taxes paid by the business after the company meets its job creation and wage commitments. Additionally, no more than 25 percent of the total refund approved may be taken in any single fiscal year.

Florida Statute requires 20% local financial participation as tax refunds become due. Project B5051443633 is requesting the Board to provide 50% of the local match necessary to facilitate the State approval process, with the City of St. Petersburg providing the additional 50%. The total local financial support requested is \$27,000 of which \$13,500 (50% of the local match) is being requested through Pinellas County Government and will be budgeted within the Department of Economic Development through the general fund. The tax refund will be paid over a series of fiscal years as determined by the State

Staff Member Responsible:

Michael Meidel, Director, Economic Development Department

Partners:

City of St. Petersburg

RESOLUTION NO. 15- _____

A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA APPROVING PROJECT B5051443633 AS A QUALIFIED APPLICANT FOR THE QUALIFIED TARGET INDUSTRY TAX REFUND PROGRAM PURSUANT TO SECTION 288.106, FLORIDA STATUTES; IDENTIFYING LOCAL COUNTY FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR PROJECT B5051443633; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Florida established the Qualified Target Industry Business Tax Refund Program (“QTI Program”) to encourage the growth of Florida’s economy by creating high-wage, value-added employment opportunities, and authorized the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity to accept, review and approve applications for tax refunds to qualified target industry businesses; and

WHEREAS, the QTI Program requires 20% local financial participation as tax refunds become due; and

WHEREAS, Project B5051443633 is a business services firm that wishes to expand its regional headquarters within Pinellas County and projects hiring 27 employees in qualified value-added jobs; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners finds that providing QTI Program tax refunds to Project B5051443633 serves the public purpose of promoting positive impacts on and benefits to the County’s economic vitality.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA, at a duly-assembled meeting held on the 10th day of November, 2015, as follows:

Section 1. Project B5051443633 is approved as a Qualified Target Industry Business pursuant to Section 288.106, Florida Statutes. This recommendation is based upon the creation of

the specified jobs and is contingent upon Pinellas County's review and confirmation of Project B5051443633's final application.

Section 2. Project B5051443633's average private sector wage commitment calculation shall be at least 115% of the State of Florida average annual wage.

Section 3. The necessary commitment of local financial support for the Qualified Target Industry Business for the Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund Program has been identified in the total sum of \$27,000 with 50% of the local contribution to be paid by Pinellas County and 50% to be paid by the City of St. Petersburg subject to annual appropriations, and will be paid to the Florida Economic Development Trust Fund as tax refunds become due. The funding authorized herein is intended to represent the local financial support required by Section 288.106, Florida Statutes and is conditioned upon the applicant meeting all statutory requirements of the QTI Program. Nothing herein will prevent other jurisdictions or private sector entities from making or increasing their contributions. However, in no event will the total contribution of Pinellas County for Project B5051443633 exceed \$13,500.

Section 4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Commissioner _____ offered the foregoing Resolution and moved its adoption, which was seconded by Commissioner _____, and upon roll call, the vote was:

_____ Ayes

_____ Nays

APPROVED AS TO FORM

By: Michael A. Zas

Office of the County Attorney