



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

DATE: September 5, 2013

AGENDA ITEM NO. 20

Consent Agenda ☐

Regular Agenda ☒

Public Hearing ☐

County Administrator's Signature

Subject:

Adoption of a Resolution Approving A9031049233 as a Qualified Applicant for the Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund Program.

Department:

Strategic Planning & Initiatives

Staff Member Responsible:

Mike Meidel, Director
Economic Development

Recommended Action:

I RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (BOARD) ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING A9031049233 AS A QUALIFIED APPLICANT PURSUANT TO SECTION 288.106, FLORIDA STATUTES, AND IDENTIFY SOURCES OF LOCAL COUNTY FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF PROJECT A9031049233 AS LOCAL PARTICIPATION IN THE QUALIFIED TARGET INDUSTRY TAX REFUND PROGRAM.

Summary Explanation/Background:

Project A9031049233 is a defense and homeland security company that would like to relocate their national headquarters to Pinellas County. The economic impact of the project's capital investment is \$895,300. An estimated 65 employees are projected to be hired with annual pay scales of at least 200% of the average annual wage for the State of Florida. These earnings would result in an economic impact of \$7.9 million and a total of 116 direct and indirect new jobs. An additional site the company is considering is Massachusetts.

Calculated using the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis RIMS II Model for Pinellas County.

Fiscal Impact/Cost/Revenue Summary:

The total tax refund is \$455,000, which is calculated at \$7,000 per job with a total of 65 new jobs. The \$7,000 per job calculation is based on pay scales of at least 200% 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 A9031049233 is requesting the Board to provide 50% of the local match necessary to facilitate the State approval process, with the City of Pinellas Park providing the additional 50%. The total local financial support requested is \$91,000 of which \$45,500 (50% of the local match) is being requested through Pinellas County Government and will be budgeted within the Department of Economic Development. The tax refund will be paid over a series of fiscal years as determined by the State.

Exhibits/Attachments Attached:

Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 13- _____

A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA APPROVING PROJECT A9031049233 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 A9031049233; 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 A9031049233 is a defense and homeland security company that would like to relocate its national headquarters to Pinellas County and projects hiring 65 employees in qualified value-added jobs; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners finds that providing QTI Program tax refunds to Project A9031049233 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 5th day of September, 2013, as follows:

Section 1. Project A9031049233 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 A9031049233's final application.

Section 2. Project A9031049233's average private sector wage commitment calculation shall be at least 200% 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 \$91,000 with 50% of the local contribution to be paid by Pinellas County and 50% to be paid by the City of Pinellas Park 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 A9031049233 exceed \$45,500.

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:  _____
Office of the County Attorney