



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**DATE:** January 27, 2015

**AGENDA ITEM NO.** //

**Consent Agenda** ☐

**Regular Agenda** ☒

**Public Hearing** ☐

**County Administrator's Signature:**

**Subject:**

Adoption of a Resolution Approving B4093045298 as a Qualified Applicant for the Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund Program.

**Department:**

Economic Development

**Staff Member Responsible:**

Mike Meidel, Director

**Recommended Action:**

I RECOMMEND THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (BOARD) ADOPT A RESOLUTION APPROVING B4093045298 AS A QUALIFIED APPLICANT PURSUANT TO SECTION 288.106, FLORIDA STATUTES, AND IDENTIFY SOURCES OF LOCAL COUNTY FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF PROJECT B4093045298 AS LOCAL PARTICIPATION IN THE QUALIFIED TARGET INDUSTRY TAX REFUND PROGRAM.

**Summary Explanation/Background:**

Project B4093045298 represents a technology-centric business enterprise that would like to relocate and expand its international headquarters within Pinellas County. The economic impact of the project's capital investment is \$172,000. An estimated 40 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 \$42,446. These earnings would result in an economic impact of \$2.3 million and a total of 54 direct and indirect new jobs. Additional sites the company is considering are Colorado, Illinois, Texas and Arizona.

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/Cost/Revenue Summary:**

The total tax refund is \$320,000, which is calculated at \$8,000 per job with a total of 40 new jobs. The \$8,000 per job calculation is based on pay scales of at least 115% of the State of Florida's average annual wage, the project being located in an Enterprise Zone, 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% 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 B4093045298 is requesting the Board 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 \$64,000 of which \$32,000 (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.

**Exhibits/Attachments Attached:**

Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 15- \_\_\_\_\_

A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA APPROVING PROJECT B4093045298 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 B4093045298; 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 B4093045298 is a technology-centric business enterprise that would like to relocate and expand its international headquarters within Pinellas County and projects hiring 40 employees in qualified value-added jobs; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners finds that providing QTI Program tax refunds to Project B4093045298 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 27th day of January 2015, as follows:

Section 1. Project B4093045298 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 B4093045298's final application.

Section 2. Project B4093045298's average private sector wage commitment calculation shall be at least 115% of the State's 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 \$64,000 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 B4093045298 exceed \$32,000.

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  
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY

By                     N. Zu                      
Attorney