



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN PALM BEACH COUNTY: THE “BEST OF EVERYTHING” FOR BUSINESSES AND RESIDENTS

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From our award winning parks and airports to our beaches and cultural venues, it is easy to see why Palm Beach County has the “Best of Everything”. The Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners promote economic development in the county with significant investments to preserve our natural resources, ensure a safe and secure community through public safety and infrastructure improvements, supply public transportation, and support quality housing for every sector of the community.

Board-approved strategies from direct services to public-private partnerships, create a business friendly environment. This economic development focus provides countless reasons for companies of all shapes and sizes – from start-ups to Fortune 500 firms – to want to do business in Palm Beach County.

For example, the Palm Beach County Department of Housing and Economic Sustainability works in partnership with the Business Development Board to create jobs through the relocation or expansion of corporate headquarters in the county. For other businesses, the County’s Office of Equal Business Opportunity supports small as well as minority- and women-owned businesses by promoting participation in the County’s procurement process. As the County’s total annual operating budget is \$5.2 billion, there is a lot of opportunity for such businesses to provide goods and services. The Board of County Commissioners has also made a significant investment life sciences through the recruitment of the Scripps Research Institute and Max Planck Society to Palm Beach County. In a testament to the connection between higher learning, high tech, and science, the County partners with the Florida Atlantic Research Development Authority and the FAU Tech Runway which provide a high tech incubator and access to venture capital investors.

Businesses also recognize their employees need affordable housing. To that end, the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners created and approved the Workforce Housing Program to address the housing needs of current and future members of the county’s workforce. The Workforce Housing Program, a partnership between Palm Beach County and residential housing developers, provides qualifying Palm Beach County residents the opportunity to purchase homes at below market prices. Within unincorporated Palm Beach County, new developments of more than 10 housing units are required to dedicate a percentage of the units to the Workforce Housing Program.

As you can see, the Board of County Commissioners prioritizes a broad range economic development strategies that give the County’s businesses and residents the “Best of Everything”. To learn more about the Department of Housing & Economic Sustainability or any of the County’s business and economic development programs, please contact me at 561-233-3600 or showard@pbcgov.org.