

RESOLUTION NO. 99- 90

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE; SETTING TERMS; STATING DUTIES; LISTING MEMBERSHIP SPECIFICATIONS AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, St. Johns County is committed to economic diversification, an expanded tax base and prudent, efficient use of its resources for the mutual benefit of existing and future business; and

WHEREAS, St. Johns County desires to attract industry and commercial opportunities compatible with preserving the existing quality of life while increasing the job base and average salary for County residents; and

WHEREAS, St. Johns County offers numerous key factors considered attractive to corporations nationwide, including: low tax rates, competitive labor costs, easy accessibility to major highways and other modes of transportation, availability of land, proximity to major markets, an excellent education system, low crime rate and a growing number of recreational and cultural opportunities, in addition to a pristine natural environment; and

WHEREAS, St. Johns County recognizes that tourism represents a significant part of our local economy, employing an estimated 16 percent of the County's labor force and generating an annual economic impact approaching \$1 billion; and

WHEREAS, St. Johns County seeks to retain the approximate 30 percent of its work force presently commuting out of the county for work by offering diverse positions at competitive wages through the development of the County's industrial and commercial base; and

WHEREAS, the St. Johns County Commission seeks to have a greater role in the economic development of St. Johns County, to ensure that the delicate balance between quality of life, existing residents and business is tempered with the desire to attract new industry to accommodate the growth anticipated in the upcoming decade; and

WHEREAS, the County Commission recognizes the benefits of having an economic development committee to act in an advisory capacity relating to economic development issues.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, the following:

SECTION 1. There is hereby established the St. Johns County Economic Development Committee to exist and serve as an advisory body, at the discretion, pleasure and direction of the Board of County Commissioners.

SECTION 2. The Board of County Commissioners may, from time to time by resolution, at its discretion, and as it deems appropriate or desirable, adopt, amend, abolish or otherwise change the rules and directives under which the Economic Development Committee exists and operates.

SECTION 3. MEMBERSHIP, QUALIFICATIONS, STRUCTURE & TERMS

The following qualifications for appointment, Committee structure, and term are hereby adopted for the Economic Development Committee:

- A. Appointees must be registered voters in St. Johns County.
- B. Membership shall consist of five citizens, with each District Commissioner making one nomination to be voted on by the full Board. It is desired that each member have a demonstrated interest in business expansion, recruitment, retention or economic development.
- C. All Committee members shall be appointed by, and serve at the pleasure of the Board of County Commissioners.
- D. Term of appointment shall be four (4) years. No more than two (2) consecutive terms may be served, beyond the staggered terms of initial appointees, in accordance with County policy.

SECTION 4. ADVISORS, REPRESENTATIVES & STAFF SUPPORT

- A. In order to provide needed expertise to the Committee, advisors may be selected to meet with the Committee from time to time as the need arises, such as the Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council, Enterprise Florida, etc.
- B. A representative from each of the chambers of commerce in St. Johns County will be asked to serve in an ex officio capacity.
- C. The staff support will be provided by the County Administrator's Office and additional staff, e.g., the Planning Department and Housing program, as may be deemed necessary by the Administrator's Office.

SECTION 5. DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Duties and responsibilities of the Economic Development Council shall be to:

- A. Act as an advisory body to the Board of County Commissioners in matters pertaining to economic development policies and legislation.
- B. Assist in the creation of an attractive, competitive recruitment program for new business and industry considering St. Johns County as a relocation destination.

- C. Encourage existing business to remain and expand within St. Johns County.
- D. Encourage the creation of incubation projects that will develop the "new economy."
- E. Work in cooperation with economic development organizations throughout Northeast Florida to better establish a consistent promotional message that attracts a large number of industry to the area.
- F. Meet on a regular basis in a publicly accessible, advertised location, and conduct meetings in accordance with the highest ethical and moral responsiveness, within the observance of the codes and laws of St. Johns County and the State of Florida.
- G. Maintain communication with the Board of County Commissioners through the County Commission representative and by furnishing approved minutes of Committee meetings, and any reports as needed or requested.
- H. The Economic Development Committee may adopt, amend and repeal rules (bylaws) for its further organization, not inconsistent with the permitted Board of County Commissioners policy.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, this 25th day of MAY, 1999.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: Marc Jacalone
Chairman, Marc Jacalone

ATTEST: CHERYL STRICKLAND, CLERK

By: Uwanna King
Deputy Clerk