

## **Recap of Economic Development Activity 2016 - Present**

**Note:** The following represents, to our best estimation, of North Port Economic Development activity where ED was involved either proactively (from inception) or in an advisory/resource capacity working the Neighborhood Development Services and other city departments (while in development or after business opening).

We are not aware of the total level of direct involvement Economic Development had, except for executing the various conferences and summits which Economic Development conducted and managed. Where noted, projects are either completed or in process.

### **New Businesses – Manufacturing**

- Euro-Wall Systems - completed
- MTI Equipment – completed
- King Plastic expansion – in process

### **New Businesses – Services**

- Contra Securities - completed
- Adams & Nichols Ecological Services - completed
- Christian Brothers Auto Repair - completed
- Astaldi Construction - completed
- Med Express – completed
- Sunterra Wellness – completed
- Great Clips – completed
- Heartland Dental – completed
- Aspen Dental – completed
- Escape Rooms Unlocked – completed
- Heron Creek Animal Hospital

### **New Businesses – Retail**

- Bocca Lupa Restaurant – completed
- Culvers – completed
- Tapas 1 – completed
- Sherwin Williams – completed
- Popeyes – completed
- Auto Zone – completed
- Kay Jewelers - completed
- Kirklands – completed
- Dick’s Sporting Goods – completed
- Moe’s Restaurant - completed
- Taco Bell – completed

## **Business Conferences**

- Very successful 2017 and 2018 North Port Real Estate Summits.
- 2018 - Workforce Needs Conference at Suncoast Technical College with area businesses, STC personnel and ED personnel
- Four International Trade Conferences held at STC with businesses from Central/South America and Europe participating. Part of our working relationship with The International Trade Hub – Port Manatee

## **Personnel**

- A Business Advocate position was approved in 2016 to be an ombudsman for North Port businesses vis-à-vis contact and dealings with the City.
- Assistance was provided to support the business façade program.
- A part-time contract Marketing position was added in 2017.

## **Projects In-Progress**

- Review of all ED communication and marketing materials.
- Façade Improvement Program. Incentive program designed to improve aesthetics of local retail/service businesses. Current project in progress on Rt. 41 post office strip mall.
- Workforce Development: Continue contact with Suncoast Technical College and local businesses to examine current and future needs of local businesses.
- Tuscola Commons: includes both the Hampton Hotel and possible Metro Diner projects
- Cocoplum Center
- Suncoast Plaza
- Price Crossings
- Heron Creek Town Center
- Cocoplum Gateway
- Sumter Gateway
- Texas Roadhouse
- Wawa – Price/Toledo Blade.
- Retail Market Assessment and Hotel Feasibility Study

## **Atlanta Braves**

- Economic Development was involved where requested. Currently, our activity involving the Braves is working with Braves marketing/promotion personnel.

## **Direct Marketing**

- Direct mail campaign (quarterly) targeting small businesses and service industries. Campaign yielded only a few responses and has since been discontinued.

### **Sampling of Accolades Earned by North Port**

- Top 10 in Nation for future 3 year job growth – Moody Analytics
- Best City in US for young entrepreneurs – Moneyrates
- Best place for manufacturing in Tampa Bay aea – Southern Business & Development
- Top 25 City in US for Business and Careers – Forbes
- Top 20 city in Nation for homebuyers – Forbes
- 2<sup>nd</sup> safest city in Florida – Safehome.org
- Top 5 Florida School Districts – Niche.com
- Top 10 digital city in its class – Center for Digital Government
- Playful city USA for 8 straight years – Humana foundation
- Best place on Florida's Gulf Coast to raise a family – Smartasset