

History of North Port's Involvement in: Interlocal Agreement Providing for the Administration of Joint County/Municipalities Economic Development Program

8 February 2005

- An Interlocal agreement regarding a joint county-municipal economic development program was established with Sarasota County acting as the lead governmental organization to contract with the Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County (EDCSC) as they implement the Sarasota County Economic Development Strategic Plan.
- Further, the County, acting as Administrative Agent on behalf of the Municipalities (Cities of North Port, Venice, Sarasota and Long Boat Key), agreed to maintain the Economic Development Trust Fund which all revenues from participating governments were to be deposited; coordinate the EDCSC in an annual program of services and spending; execute and monitor the annual contract as recommended by the Tourism and Economic Development Board (TEDB, now defunct) and the County Commissioners; Coordinate with EDCSC in programs with the Florida Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development) (also now defunct and reorganized); and provide quarterly financial status reports.
- The EDCSC under contract with the County was tasked with establishing measurable performance goals which were to be updated annually by September 30 to reflect the budget and set performance goals and any reasons for exceptions. These goals were to be communicated quarterly to the TEDB and reported jointly to the Municipalities and the County. Finally, all programs were to be implemented County-wide, excepting grant-driven specifics in a particular jurisdiction.
- Program implementation costs were to be funded by the Occupational License Tax revenues received by the County and an additional \$1.00 per capita program funding by each jurisdiction party to the Interlocal Agreement. Population to be determined annually by Bureau of Economic and Business Research (BEBR). The County was to contribute matching funds.
- Termination: Any one or more of the Municipalities or the County may terminate the Agreement by Notice in writing no less than ninety (90) days prior to the expiration or the annualized renewal.

*This information was extracted from the original Interlocal Agreement, contract no. 2005-248)

6 June 2018 City Commission Workshop (FY2018-19)

Commission suggested to remove the budget for the Economic Development program with Sarasota County, effectively defunding North Port's per capita to the EDC. The

Program cost as determined by the 2005 Interlocal agreement was to be based on population as determined by BEBR. At the time of this discussion, the Program cost was calculated at \$64,000.

July 10, 2018 City Commission Regular Meeting (FY2018-19)

Mark Huey, President/CEO of EDC of Sarasota Co. provided a PowerPoint presentation to Commissioners in explanation of the EDC's purvey which includes: (1) the Film Commission (2) Business Retention and Expansion including the Grow Florida program designed to grow high potential companies; (3) Business Recruitment and Attraction; (4) Marketing of the County and its municipalities using all forms of media; (5) and occasionally, involves itself in matters of public policy at the direction of the EDC Board.

September 6, 2018 City Commission Special Meeting (FY2018-19)

Budget and funding for Sarasota County Economic Development Corporation was added back into the 2018-19 Budget for \$60,000 to \$70,000 (dependent upon BEBR numbers).

June 19, 2019 City Commission Workshop (FY2019-2020)

Commissioners discussed the funding of the EDCSC partnership, received assurance from the City Manager that the City would be providing input to the contract. Commissioners discussed contract being complete prior to budget approval or EDC funding would be pulled pending the status of the draft agreement. Commissioners underscored their concern with approving a last-minute contract.

July 16, 2019 City Commission Workshop (FY2019-2020)

Commission discussed removal of EDCSC per capita funding due to not having a new Interlocal in place. City Manager and Mayor both reported that this was not the fault of the EDCSC, but rather it was the negotiations of language among all Municipalities and County and agreement of language for appropriate performance measures which would be applicable to all jurisdictions. Various Commissioners continue to be concerned about Return on Investment (ROI) for dollars invested into the Economic Development Program indicating they see none. Suggestions were made as to alternate methods to keep funding in and be prepared to pull it in September if the new agreement is not suitable or does not provide the measures requested to determine value for the City.

County and City Staff Activity

Beginning February 2019, the County began to meet with all Municipalities involved in this Economic Development Interlocal Agreement redraft in order to eliminate old, inaccurate information and attempt to provide for performance measures to which all parties could agree.

Eleven (11) drafts have been completed with countless meetings, phone conversations and dozens of emails circulated by all parties. Draft eleven (11) with North Port's Legal revisions, is the version submitted to the North Port Commission today.

The County has circulated this same Agreement to the remaining Municipalities and to the Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County as of Wednesday, August 21, 2019. To date we have received no other information and believe this is the best possible version to ensure tracking, responsiveness, accountability, and appropriate performance measures agreeable to all parties.