

RESOLUTION NO. 23-102

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE PROCESS BY WHICH APPLICATIONS TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AD VALOREM TAX EXEMPTION PROGRAM ARE REVIEWED PRIOR TO RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the State of Florida has provided for the Economic Development Ad Valorem Tax Exemption program pursuant to Article VII, Section 3, of the Constitution of the State of Florida and Section 196.1995, Florida Statutes, upon the successful passage of a referendum; and

WHEREAS, by a referendum held on August 26, 2014, the electors of Pinellas County authorized the granting of ad valorem tax exemptions; and

WHEREAS, on December 16, 2014, the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners adopted Ordinance 2014-56 codified in Chapter 118, Article VI of the Pinellas County Code authorizing the granting of such exemptions; and

WHEREAS, as a part of the process outlined in Chapter 118, Article VI of the Pinellas County Code, the Economic Development Department routinely reviews applications to the Ad Valorem Tax Exemption program; and

WHEREAS, in order to minimize subjectivity, create clear guidelines, and demonstrate a message of competitive ability for Pinellas County by highlighting the Ad Valorem Tax Exemption Program, the Economic Development department has created a Scoring Matrix to be utilized when reviewing applications to the program; and

WHEREAS, the Scoring Matrix is a highly transparent tool that will allow Pinellas County to accurately and efficiently evaluate businesses early in the development process; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners encourages the use of an objective approach to screening and reviewing applications to the Ad Valorem Tax Exemption Program.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Pinellas County, Florida, that:

- Section 1. The Economic Development of Pinellas County will utilize the Scoring Matrix, attached hereto as “Exhibit A” as a tool to review applications to the Economic Development Ad Valorem Tax Exemption Program.
- Section 2. Nothing in this Resolution will prohibit the Economic Development Department from periodically updating the Scoring Matrix to align with current market factors, inflation, emerging business trends, or other relevant factors.
- Section 3. If the Scoring Matrix is updated pursuant to Section 2 herein, an update will be given to the Board of County Commissioners during a public meeting and no further action will be necessary to effectuate the use by the Economic Development Department of such updated Matrix.
- Section 4. This Resolution shall become effective upon its adoption.

In a regular meeting duly assembled on the 14th day of November, 2023, Commissioner Scott offered the foregoing Resolution and moved its adoption, which was seconded by Commissioner Flowers, and upon roll call, the vote was:

AYES: Long, Peters, Eggers, Flowers, Justice, Latvala, and Scott.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT AND NOT VOTING: None.

APPROVED AS TO FORM
By: Cody J. Ward
Office of the County Attorney

EXHIBIT A

Pinellas County Ad Valorem Tax Exemption Scoring Matrix

Total Points Obtainable by Applicant: 115 possible points = 100 base pts + 15 bonus pts

| Capital Investment | | | | | |
|---------------------------|------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Capital Investment | Under \$2M | \$2M to \$10M | \$11M to \$50M | \$51M to \$100M | Above \$101M |
| Points Awarded | 10 | 15 | 20 | 30 | 35 |

| Wage Level | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Wage Level | Minimum Qualifying Wage | 125% MQW | 150% MQW | 200% MQW | 225%+ MQW |
| Points Awarded | 10 | 15 | 20 | 30 | 35 |

| Employee Headcount Increase | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Manufacturing/Target Industry Business Headcount Increase | Meets Minimum Job Creation | 11-39 New Jobs | 40-99 New Jobs | 100-149 New Jobs | 150+ New Jobs |
| Points Awarded | 10 | 15 | 20 | 25 | 30 |
| Non-Target Industry Company with Outside Florida Sales Project Headcount Increase | Meets Minimum Job Creation | 26-74 New Jobs | 75-124 New Jobs | 125-174 New Jobs | 175+ New Jobs |
| Points Awarded | 10 | 15 | 20 | 25 | 30 |
| Non-Target Industry Office Project Headcount Increase | Meets Minimum Job Creation | 51-100 New Jobs | 101-150 New Jobs | 151-200 New Jobs | 200+ New Jobs |
| Points Awarded | 10 | 15 | 20 | 25 | 30 |
| Bonus if Company is Increasing their Headcount by 25%: 15 pts | | | | | |

| Abatement Structure | | | | |
|---|--------------|------------|---------------|---------------|
| Tier Classification | Tier 1 | Tier 2 | Tier 3 | Tier 4 |
| Total Points Earned | 30 - 49 | 50 - 75 | 76 - 99 | 100 |
| Abatement Structure: Maximum Years/Percentage | 5 yrs. / 50% | 7yrs / 75% | 10 yrs. / 85% | 10 yrs. /100% |

