

PBC Interactive — Expanding Web-Based Business Research Capabilities

By Sherry Howard, Deputy Director Palm Beach County Department of Economic Sustainability

Palm Beach County values its partnership with the Business Development Board in drawing new businesses to the area, assisting existing companies with their expansion needs, and working toward the common goal of creating new job opportunities for our county's residents. BDB's initiatives complement the

financial resources, programs and services administered by Palm Beach County, and together, make for a dynamic approach to economic development.

The partnership has made significant advances in providing web-based tools for use by businesses seeking to locate or expand in the county. BDB's *PBCProspector* and *Shovel Ready* sites link to commercial and industrial properties available for lease or purchase, as well as properties that possess required development approvals and are poised for construction. In addition, Palm Beach County has launched *PBC Interactive* – the county's first and only comprehensive public research site providing current, parcel-based business information. Updated daily, PBC Interactive is an additional tool to help facilitate economic growth and job creation.

PBC Interactive was developed through an effective collaboration of county departments of Economic Sustainability (DES), Planning Zoning & Building, and Information Systems Services (ISS), along with the Property Appraiser's Office. Utilizing the county's existing Geographic Information System, project staff integrated programs and current data to provide a one-stop-shop that helps the public and private sectors gain information that previously required going to multiple sources.

PBC Interactive offers more than 20 search layers and displays results in map or report form, allowing for multiple search selections. Features and search layers include:

- North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes, which allows selective control over display of a particular industry
- Tracking of all registered businesses in the county
- Land use designations, amendments and zoning approvals
- Parcel ownership, assessed property value, tenant composition and square feet
- Jurisdictional boundaries, U.S. Census data, HUB Zones, Enterprise and Tax Credit zones, Downtown Development Authorities, Community Redevelopment Agencies, economic development organizations, educational institutions, tourist development organizations, and business incubators
- Transportation maps including roadways, bus routes and stops, railroads
- Web links to sites most useful for business services and research
- Generates reports that can be downloaded into Excel

The site now includes existing and future land uses for all 38 municipalities. Coordination efforts to incorporate municipal zoning approvals are ongoing. *PBC Interactive* performs in browsers Internet Explorer, Chrome, Firefox and Safari.

For further information about *PBC Interactive*, please look for this icon on the Palm Beach County and DES home pages at www.pbcgov.com/des or contact DES at (561) 233-3600.

