

**PALM BEACH COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

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Meeting Date:	March 13, 2007	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Regular
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Ordinance	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Hearing
Department:	Administration				
Submitted By:	Economic Development				
Submitted For:	Economic Development				

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I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Motion and Title: Staff requests Board direction: regarding Junior Achievement's request for Palm Beach County to sponsor the Government Center at Exchange City located at Northwood University in the amount of \$50,000 a year for five (5) years. The Government Center is a learning center which educates students on the basic community economics to increase their ability to compete in the workplace. Funding alternatives include (1) Fund out of General Fund Contingency, (2) Consider in next year's budget or (3) Not to fund.

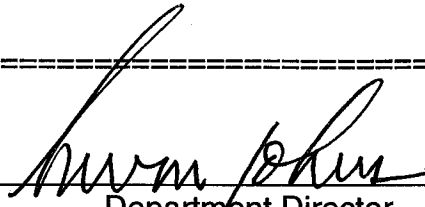
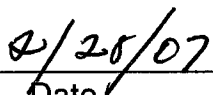

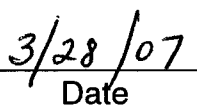
Summary: Junior Achievement has begun a capital campaign for its new center, The Stiles-Nicholson Center Junior Achievement at Northwood University. The Government Center will be located at the new JA Center at Northwood University. Junior Achievement is in their 22nd year of providing excellence in economic education in Palm Beach County. Their programs have reached more than 343,000 students with over 20,000 teachers and volunteers since 1984. The mission of Junior Achievement is to educate and inspire young people to value the American free enterprise system and entrepreneurship, to understand business and economics and to be workforce ready. Countywide (DW)

Background and Policy Issues: Junior Achievement's mission is consistent with the 2005 Economic Summit recommendations for total education: to encourage Junior Achievement, to take a lead role in working with other stakeholders to design, develop, and implement a multi-faceted, broad based system that will transition County's prevailing culture (workplace) values to those that are highly desirable and attractive to employers.

Attachments:

1. January 30, 2007 letter from Junior Achievement
2. 2005 Economic Summit Recommendations

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Recommended by:		
	Department Director	Date
Approved By:		
	Assistant County Administrator	Date

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Fiscal Years	20____	20____	20____	20____	20____
Capital Expenditures	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Operating Costs	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
External Revenues	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Program Income (County)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
In-Kind Match (County)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
NET FISCAL IMPACT	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
No. ADDITIONAL FTE POSITIONS (Cumulative)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

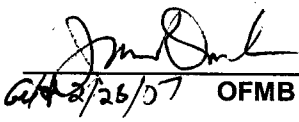
Is Item Included In Current Budget? Yes _____ No _____
Budget Account No.: Fund _____ Department _____ Unit _____
Object _____ Reporting Category _____

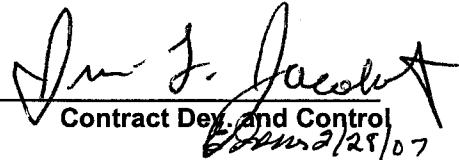
B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:

C. Departmental Fiscal Review:

III. REVIEW COMMENTS

A. OFMB Fiscal and/or Contract Dev. and Control Comments:


2-27-07
OFMB CN
02/26/07


2/28/07
Contract Dev. and Control
02/28/07

B. Legal Sufficiency:


3/5/07
Assistant County Attorney

C. Other Department Review:

Department Director

Attachment 1



2007 Junior Achievement of
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January 30, 2007

The Honorable Addie Green
Chairperson & Commissioner, Palm Beach County District 7
Board of County Commissioners
301 N. Olive Avenue
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Dear Madam Chairperson:

This is our 22nd year of providing excellence in economic education in Palm Beach County. With over 20,000 Teachers and Volunteers since 1984, our programs have reached more than 343,000 students! In the past 3 years we served over 118,000 students.

The mission of Junior Achievement is to educate and inspire young people to value the American free enterprise system and entrepreneurship, to understand business and economics and to be workforce ready.

The public and private planners are feverishly preparing for the explosion of growth in Palm Beach County with the expansion and improvement of the infrastructure. Road projects are underway, housing developments are being phased in and everything needed to support this anticipated growth seems to have been set in motion.

But a State and a community that continues to rank as one of the ten richest in America also continues to rank near the bottom in the amount we spend annually for education on a per student basis. Florida spends almost 17% less per student than the national average and barely half of what the top tier of states spend per student.

Certainly Florida is vigorously addressing this problem and some improvement has occurred, but we must continue to be aggressive and innovative to educate our children and to ensure that they not only stay in school but also are capable of relating what they learn to every day life and career opportunities.

It is not enough that more and more of this area's best and brightest are taking advantage of the academic excellence being offered by our local Universities and Colleges. We still have a situation where too many students entering our outstanding Community Colleges first have to complete their GED requirement before earning post secondary credits.

The admonishment of Arthur Levitt, former SEC Chairman that "the American economy is the eighth wonder of the world; and the ninth is the economic ignorance of the American people" is truer today than ever before.

Many young adults are starting their first jobs lacking critical information about taxes, balancing a checkbook, credit cards, and business concepts and other soft skills they need to succeed. University administrators state that they lose more students to credit card debt than to academic failure. (Utah Mentor 2003)

To bring this problem into focus and closer to home the graduation rate in Palm Beach County is 65% which is the second worst in the State only Dade County keeps us from being the worst. And that's in a State that ranks 47th in the overall education of our children.

The need for hands-on learning experiences in PBC Schools, which shows students the relevance of the classroom to real world careers, was expressed by the 2005 Total Education Panel (TEC) of the PBC Economic Summit. Working for almost a year the TEC sought to address the following issue at the Summit which will produce the 10 year strategic plan for the PBC Commission: Key Issue #1 -- *Address South Florida's culture that tolerates a broad range of attitudes and behaviors that are unacceptable and or undesirable to employers and represents a competitive disadvantage for Palm Beach County as a potential location for new and expanding enterprises.*

Let Their Success
Be Your Inspiration!®

The Total Education Panel of the 2005 Palm Beach County Economic Summit also offered this: Key Strategy # 2-- *Encourage Junior Achievement to take a leadership role in working with other stakeholders to design, develop, and implement a multi-faceted, broad-based system that will transition the county's prevailing cultural (workplace) values to become those that are highly desirable and attractive to employers. Provide the necessary resources for success of this transition.*

These two points will appear in the soon to be released final report of the Economic Summit.

Junior Achievement is the nation's leading private sector organization in the presentation of effective and innovative economic and free enterprise education programs for students in K-12 classrooms. Our staff and volunteers have an expertise and passion that has consistently produced positive results nationally since 1919 and here in Palm Beach County for more than twenty years.

Junior Achievement currently serves more than 25% of the children in PBC Schools and with our Exchange City program; we touch the minds of every 5th grader in Palm Beach County. The Palm Beach County School district is the 9th largest in the nation comprised of 28% Afro/Am, 20% Latino, 2% Asian, 49% Caucasian and 14% of students have a physical or learning disability.

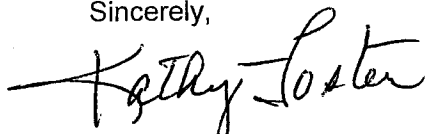
With the unquestioned success of the experiential learning model Exchange City Junior Achievement of the Palm Beach, Inc. has begun a Capital Campaign and with a lead gift from the Stiles – Nicholson Foundation JA will build The Stiles-Nicholson Center for Junior Achievement at Northwood University.

This new facility will allow Junior Achievement, with the encouragement and support of the School Board of Palm Beach County to directly benefit over 30,000 fifth and seventh grade students annually, as we strive to go from 40,000 students reached annually to 90,000 students by 2010/11. Students will get hands on educational experience that will enhance their knowledge of basic community economics and increase their ability to compete in the workplace while demonstrating the practical use of what they learn in math and language.

Today I am requesting that the Palm Beach County Commission sponsor the Government Center in JA Biz Town. The Government Center will be in the middle of JA Biz Town and with its Town Hall, Courthouse and Law Enforcement Department will be the focal point of the entire learning center. This would be a 5-year commitment at \$50,000 per year and would start March 1, 2007 giving the County Commission sponsorship of the current City Hall in Exchange City and the new Government Center when Junior Achievement moves into it's new facility in late 2007.

Thank you for your time and I will be happy to answer any questions or meet with Staff if you require additional information or need more materials.

Sincerely,



Kathy Foster
President & CEO

Cc: Hon. Jeff Koons, Vice Chair
Hon. Karen Marcus
Hon. Warren Newell
Hon. Mary McCarty
Hon. Burt Aaronson
Hon. Jess R. Santamaria
Mr. Robert Weisman

APPENDIX C: 2005 ECONOMIC SUMMIT 48 RECOMMENDATIONS

Over 500 people attended the 2005 Palm Beach County Economic Summit to hear experts on each facet of economic growth, to evaluate the results of a year's worth of committee work that laid the Summit groundwork and to make recommendations. In all, they made the following 48 recommendations across the seven categories of: industries of the mind; international trade, finance and investment; housing; total education; smart growth and transportation; agriculture, equestrian and food; and quality of place.

AGRICULTURE, EQUESTRIAN & FOOD

- 1) Water quality, quantity and related regulations
- 2) Master Plan for the EAA (Everglades Agricultural Area)
- 3) The supply of land available for agricultural and equine uses is rapidly diminishing
- 4) Further (i.e. value-added) processing of agricultural products needed
- 5) Establish an Agricultural Task Force to: recommend policies and regulations; recommend ways to encourage and finance value-added agricultural production; recommend ways to capitalize on high growth, high value agri-bio market, include identifying crops and establishing a laboratory and, obtain seed money and in kind contributions to achieve goals and outcomes.
- 6) Establish a Venture Capital fund using proceeds from County-owned Ag Reserve properties and other private/public sources to fund value-added processing of traditional products.
- 7) Create in county government a single-point of contact for agricultural and equestrian needs.

HOUSING

- 8) Creative funding sources for workforce and affordable housing development
- 9) A community land trust program that has a preservation element
- 10) Evaluate transit oriented/corridor land use alternatives for workforce housing
- 11) Regulatory reform: height, density, fees and other assessments, property appraisals
- 12) Everglades Agricultural Area Master Plan
- 13) Identify surplus government-owned land for the purpose of developing workforce and affordable housing
- 14) Review regulations that may impede affordability of housing for workforce and affordable units
- 15) Pursue private/public programs to bring workforce and affordable housing units to the market
- 16) Mandatory inclusionary zoning ordinance
- 17) Regulatory reform: height, density, fees and other assessments, property appraisals (duplicate of #11)

- 35) Lack of attainable workforce housing combined with increased costs of construction and services threatens economic sustainability of the county
- 36) Funding mechanism needed for transit
- 37) Support the current Tri-County/DOT transit and land use planning for the Florida East Coast railway corridor
- 38) Encourage inter-modal and transit-oriented developments
- 39) Inability to eliminate in-fighting and polarization among elected and appointed officials impedes PBC from effectively competing in the global marketplace
- 40) Hold a design charrette for future development of agricultural land to consider town, village and countryside development patterns and use of transfer of development rights (TDRs)

TOTAL EDUCATION

- 41) Build on strong collaborative environment for public private partnerships
- 42) Expand personal and business skills education for K-20, focusing on Junior Achievement and for delivery at K-12 and above
- 43) Inadequate state funding to support basic K-20 educational infrastructure needs and higher education research opportunities considering South Florida's high cost of living and rapid growth
- 44) Recruitment, retention and training of educators
- 45) Promote continuously improving collaboration among all residents and organizations within the County, and take a leadership role in fostering increased collaboration across the eight county South Florida region, to enhance the educational system at all levels.
- 46) Encourage Junior Achievement to take a leadership role in working with other stakeholders to design, develop, and implement a multi-faceted, broad-based system that will transition County's prevailing cultural (workplace) values to become those that are highly desirable and attractive to employers. Provide the necessary resources for success of this transition.
- 47) Conduct thorough independent economic analysis of the impact of cost of living differentials on pre K-20 educational capability and outcomes, as well as the additional funding required to manage the impact of rapid growth on the quality of education. Develop regional partnerships to secure the necessary legislative support to provide significantly increased funding to meet these needs at the earliest practical point in time.
- 48) Emphasis on Math, Sciences and Languages

21ST Century Palm Beach County

- 18) Improve marketing and education to the building industry and public on the need for workforce and affordable housing initiatives

INDUSTRIES OF THE MIND

- 19) Grow public/private partnerships to address incentives, land use, workforce and other issues.
- 20) Work with the County and cities to identify land and zoning issues
- 21) Branding and regionalism: Ensure that Palm Beach County plays the lead role in establishing South Florida as a seven-county, coordinated entity that works towards a common vision for the future
- 22) Develop a unified marketing/branding strategy for Palm Beach County
- 23) Inventory and evaluate the public/private partnerships already in place

INTERNATIONAL TRADE, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

- 24) Expand the "Palm Beach County" brand into the area of international trade, finance and investment
- 25) Palm Beach County needs to establish and fund a public/private partnership that centralizes international trade, finance and investment effort presenting the County as a destination for global trade and international finance, investment and commerce
- 26) The County needs to develop and implement a comprehensive strategic economic plan designed to emphasize Palm Beach County as a competitive geographic destination for international commerce within South Florida.
- 27) Establish a protocol office as part of PBC or contracted out by PBC. Budget expenses (line item from PBC) for the protocol office in the 2006/2007 budget cycles.
- 28) Enter into a public/private partnership between PBC and a third-party provider to service and expand opportunities for the international trade, finance and investment communities.

QUALITY OF PLACE

- 29) The pattern and form of development in the County is resulting in a dwindling natural environment, decreasing human scale architecture and lack of natural landscape and shade
- 30) Declining natural environment and dwindling public access to water because of development patterns and practices
- 31) Make Palm Beach County a resilient community (hazard mitigation)
- 32) Create and implement an advocacy plan for decision-makers regarding better development practices at the County and municipal levels
- 33) Review existing regulations to see how codes and enforcement can be improved to achieve the goals outlined above

SMART GROWTH AND TRANSPORTATION

- 34) Need for integrated land use and transportation planning that support a multi-modal transportation system