PALM BEACH COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

WORKSHOP SUMMARY

Meeting Date: January 17, 2012

Department: Administration

Submitted for: Office of Economic Development

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Title: Demonstration of Palm Beach County Interactive – A New Economic Development Informational Website for Palm Beach County.

Summary: The Office of Economic Development provides assistance to over 1,400 local and nonlocal businesses annually. The office frequently receives requests for information, which vary depending on the need of the business, but includes questions relating to location of existing businesses based on the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), individual property information, location of Enterprise Zones, Free Trade Zones, Municipal and Community Development Agency jurisdictions, Economic Development agencies and educational information. *Palm Beach County Interactive* is a real time, highly powered dynamic tool of important public information that provides comprehensive and current information in one centralized location. <u>Countywide</u> (DW)

Background and Policy Issues: In order to increase Palm Beach County's responsiveness to local and nonlocal businesses, improve the business community's access to public information and to increase Staff's efficiency to respond to numerous requests, the Office of Economic Development launched an investigation to determine if existing resources were available within the County to facilitate a cost effective solution. They soon realized that the County's existing Geographic Information System provided a cost efficient and effective solution.

Attachment:

1. Summary Sheet			
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Recommended by:	Duna Hourand	1-10-2012	

Date

Approved by: 1-9-2012
Asst. County Administrator Date

Director

Department

FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact: Fiscal Years 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 Capital Expenditures \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0 Operating Costs 0 0 0 0 0 External Revenues 0 0 0 0 0 Program Income (County) 0 0 0 0 In-Kind Match (County) 0 0 0 0 0 **NET FISCAL IMPACT** \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0 # Additional FTE 0 0 0 0 0 Positions (Cumulative) Is Item Included in Current Budget: No **Budget Account No:** Reporting Category В. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact: Departmental Fiscal Review: **III. REVIEW COMMENTS OFMB Fiscal and/or Contract Development & Control** Comments:

OFMB Legal Sufficiency: Other Department Review:

Department Director

This summary is not to be used as a basis for payment.

Palm Beach County Interactive

The Economic Development Office provides assistance to over 1,400 local and nonlocal businesses annually. The Office frequently receives requests for information, which vary depending on the need of the business, but includes questions relating to location of existing businesses based on the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), individual property information, location of Enterprise Zones, Municipal and Community Development Agency jurisdictions, Economic Development Agencies and educational information to name a few.

Although, this information is available from most public websites, unless the business entity was familiar with where to obtain the information, by the time they contacted the Economic Development Office they were often extremely frustrated and overwhelmed. Additionally, in order to respond to the requests for information, the Economic Development Office would also have to access numerous websites which did not result in the efficient use of Staff time.

In order to increase Palm Beach County's responsiveness to local and nonlocal businesses, improve the business community's access to public information and to increase the efficiency of the staff to respond to numerous requests, the Economic Development Office initiated an investigation to determine if existing resources were available within the County to facilitate a cost effective solution. They soon realized that the County's existing Geographic Information System provided a cost efficient and effective solution the problem.

Palm Beach County's existing Geographic Information System integrates hardware, software and data for capturing, managing, analyzing, and displaying all forms of geographical information. The data base has been in use since the year 2000 and has continued to be upgraded over the years to a system that supports 10 County Departments, 2 Constitutional Officers, other various government agencies and the general public.

Through the collaboration of Palm Beach County's Economic Development Office (EDO), Information Systems Services (ISS), Planning, Building and Zoning (PZB) and the Property Appraisers Office (PAO), Palm Beach County Interactive was developed.

Palm Beach County Interactive is a real time highly powered dynamic tool of important public information that provides comprehensive and current information in one centralized location. The Economic Development Office is currently working with the League of Cities and other local economic development agencies to expand the system.