

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ELEMENT

Goals, Objectives and Policies

GOAL 12.1.: THE ECONOMIC GOAL OF THE CITY OF PALM BEACH GARDENS IS TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGH A BALANCED AND DIVERSIFIED ECONOMY WHICH IS COMPATIBLE WITH THE CITY'S QUALITY BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND PROTECTS IMPORTANT NATURAL RESOURCES.

Objective 12.1.1: Maintain and expand a diversified economy by encouraging growth in targeted cluster industries that provide high-wage employment and complement changing economic conditions by supporting existing businesses and by retaining and improving resource-based sectors, such as tourism, retirement, and recreation.

Policy 12.1.1.1.: The City shall continue to attract industries and employers in cluster industries such as medical and pharmaceutical, aerospace and engineering, information technology, business and financial services, education, research and development, and any other industry cluster or company headquarters approved by the City Council.

Policy 12.1.1.2.: The City shall assist the retention and growth of existing businesses within the City, particularly those that provide high-wage employment or that support or complement those employment sectors.

Policy 12.1.1.3.: The City shall conserve and enhance the natural and recreational resources that provide the foundation of the City's retirement, recreation, and tourist based economic sectors.

Policy 12.1.1.4.: The City shall allocate adequate commercial, industrial, and residential acreage through mechanisms such as zoning and land use plans to meet future needs of a diversified economy.

Policy 12.1.1.5.: The City shall monitor and report economic growth on a periodic basis regarding increases in the employment and average wages for targeted industries.

Policy 12.1.1.6.: The City shall maintain and develop programs to encourage and facilitate the expansion and relocation of target industries in the City, including, but not limited to:

- Continue to administer a targeted expedited permitting program for companies that are expanding operations or moving into the City so that value-added employment may be created at a faster pace; and

- Continuing to review land development processes to determine where opportunities for streamlining the approval process can be accomplished; and
- Continuing to work with the Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development to facilitate expedited review of qualifying projects; and
- Continuing to improve working relationships between government and the business community and support the economic development efforts of private organizations.

Policy 12.1.1.7.: The City shall maintain land development regulations that provide incentives for the development of Bioscience Uses (as defined in the Future Land Use Element) and encourage the clustering of those uses within the City and particularly within the BRPO (as defined in the Future Land Use Element).

Policy 12.1.1.8.: The City shall ensure that an adequate amount of land is designated and zoned to categories that permit Bioscience Uses. By December 31, 2009, staff will conduct a land use study and adopt preferred City-wide percentage range of all land uses.

Policy 12.1.1.9.: The City shall continue to assess land use, transportation and business patterns and trends to identify areas that are suitable for redevelopment to provide business retention, expansion, relocation, and development incentives for those areas.

Objective 12.1.2.: Support efforts to increase the number, viability, and growth of small business enterprises to further strengthen and diversify the economy.

Policy 12.1.2.1.: The City shall collect, and disseminate information provided to or generated for the City related to small business opportunity, and minority and women business enterprises.

Policy 12.1.2.2.: The City shall support small businesses and minority and women business enterprises by encouraging their participation in City-funded projects.

Policy 12.1.2.3.: The City shall facilitate productive support and assistance within all City departments for the relocation or expansion of established small businesses and minority and women business enterprises.

Objective 12.1.3.: Provide leadership to the ongoing efforts to improve the public education system in order to encourage industries to locate or expand in Palm Beach Gardens and encourage participation of business, economic, and educational leaders and institutions in this effort.

Policy 12.1.3.1.: The City shall encourage education and training institutions to provide education and research programs that meet the needs of targeted cluster industries, and

encourage supplemental education to support existing businesses and programs to stimulate new business development.

Policy 12.1.3.2.: The City shall strengthen its relationships with local higher education institutions, such as Palm Beach State College, Nova Southeastern University, and Florida Atlantic University, by providing opportunities for faculty and students to participate in City programs that encourage economic development and education.

Policy 12.1.3.3.: The City shall support the location of high school, vocational, universities, and research and development training institutions proximate to economic development centers in the City, and support high school, vocational school, universities, and research and development training programs oriented to preparing students for success in targeted economic development sectors.

Objective 12.1.4.: Maintain the quality of the City’s balance between man-made and natural environments as a means of attracting and maintaining target industries and retaining a healthy foundation for its economy.

Policy 12.1.4.1.: The City shall encourage balance and growth in retail trade and services by continuing to support existing regional retail services while implementing planned growth patterns to foster neighborhood-based services to serve local needs.

Policy 12.1.4.2.: The City shall accommodate balanced growth and housing needs of the City’s labor force by encouraging the availability of attainable housing to persons earning a livelihood or choosing to reside in Palm Beach Gardens.

Policy 12.1.4.3.: The City shall maintain adequate infrastructure to accommodate managed growth.

Policy 12.1.4.4.: The City shall continue to provide for attractive open spaces and sustainable natural environments that enhance the quality of life in the City and protect the functions of important regional environmental resources.

Policy 12.1.4.5.: The City shall acknowledge its strategic location and promote mass transit to consolidate its position as a regional destination center.

Policy 12.1.4.6.: The City shall encourage developers of property within and adjacent to the Bioscience Research Protection Overlay (BRPO) to dedicate connections or provide easements for supportive infrastructure specific to bioscience research, such as propane gas lines.

Policy 12.1.4.7.: The City shall continue to identify sites that foster the development of wet laboratories and other research facilities, which are location sensitive and require extensive public agency coordination and private investment.