MEMORANDUM

To: Council Members

From: Staff

Date: January 18, 2013 Council Meeting

Subject: Palm Beach County Six Pillars Initiative Update

Introduction

Councilwoman Martha Webster has requested that representatives from the Six Pillars Business Climate and Competitiveness Task Force present to Council an update on the Six Pillars program, key successes from working with the local governments in Palm Beach County, and the Planning and Zoning Best Practices White Paper.

Background

In 2009, the Economic Council of Palm Beach County, Inc. commissioned a nationally recognized community and economic development consultant to perform an independent competitiveness analysis of the development climate in Palm Beach County. The result of the study indicated the County was perceived as being an expensive and difficult place to do business. Subsequently, representatives from local governments and business began an initiative to streamline development practices to assist existing business interests, and attract new business and development opportunities, jobs, and increased tax revenues, while preserving the County’s quality of life. The results were presented at a workshop in May of 2010.

In November 2011, the Six Pillars Business Climate and Competitiveness Task Force, consisting of five public sector planners and five private sector planners, was formed and tasked with consolidating all the research data to create a white paper identifying planning and zoning best practices for Palm Beach County. The White Paper (attached) is intended to be used as a tool for both public and private local planning organizations to improve the regulatory process within the County. The paper identifies 47 best practices which are divided into categories and prioritized by importance by the subgroup.

Recommendation

For informational purposes only.

Attachment