

**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY
ECONOMIC STIMULUS TASK FORCE
APRIL 17, 2009**

The Hillsborough County Economic Stimulus Task Force met in the Regular Meeting on Friday, April 17, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Rooms 26 A and B, County Center, Tampa, Florida.

The following Task Force members were present:

Bob Abberger (Chairman)	Trammell Crow
Henry Gonzalez III	GTCC Chair/Bank of Tampa
Jack Kolosky (for Dr. William Dalton)	Moffitt (Life Sciences)
Ken Hagan (Vice Chairman)	BOCC Chairman
Mark House	Com 100/Beck Construction
Dr. Steven Klasko	USF Health
Dr. Jack Rechcigl	UF/IFAS Gulf Coast Research Ctr
Stuart Rogel	CEO, Tampa Bay Partnership
Chuck Sykes	Sykes Enterprises (HQ Company)

The following members were absent:

Chuck Black	TECO
John Lenyo	CAE USA (Technology & Mnfrg)
Dr. Shawn Robinson	HCC Ybor City Campus

Mr. Abberger called the meeting to order at approximately 9:05 a.m.

Mr. Abberger requested approval of the minutes of the April 3, 2009 ESTF meeting. The motion was moved and seconded. Said motion unanimously approved.

Mr. Abberger discussed the current state of the economy, the increase in unemployment rate and need for this task force's work to be completed.

Mr. Abberger recognized Mike Merrill, Utilities & Commerce Administrator of Hillsborough County who provided an overview of current bond and debt ratings changes and their impact to Hillsborough County. Mr. Merrill reported that Moody's rating agency has put all local governments in the U.S. on negative credit watch due to anticipated extended revenue declines, which means the County's capacity to issue debt for infrastructure is reduced significantly. Subsequently, this may have an impact on our economic development efforts, in that prospect companies considering a relocation, typically expect an inventory of permit ready land with adequate infrastructure. In this circumstance, committing future County revenues toward debt issuance must be managed to strike a balance between the entire list of County capital needs such as government facilities, parks, transportation projects, economic development and utilities.

Mr. Abberger introduced Peter Aluotto, Director of Planning & Growth Management, Hillsborough County who initiated an in depth discussion presented by several speakers to outline the current land development process in the County. Stephen Griffin of the Planning Commission provided a characterization of the details and timing of the Comprehensive Plan process. John Healey of PGM, provided an explanation of the details and timing of the zoning process. Peter Aluotto provided a depiction of the site plan development and building permit review process which highlights the need for sites or land with the comprehensive plan, zoning and site plan development issues all resolved prior to marketing as economic development site. In partial response to Jack Kolosky's and Dr. Klasko's questions about best practices and procedures, Mr. Aluotto suggested reducing negotiated business points along the process path would be a substantial improvement. Mark Huey of the City of Tampa, discussed the City's recent approval providing forbearance of building permits within the City. Heather Lamboy of the Planning Commission provided an overview of the inventory of industrial land in the County. Finally, a review of the I-4 Corridor Economic Study was provided by Joe Incorvia of PGM and described the work to assess the economic and employment opportunities of the I-4 Corridor with special attention to light industrial, office and research activities. Discussion took place about when the recommendations of the I-4 Corridor Study were expected and how that information can be coordinated with the work product of the Economic Stimulus Task Force.

Mr. Abberger recognized Mr. Stewart Rogel, of the Tampa Bay Partnership who presented a review of the Partnership's "Model for Prosperity" and how it applies to that organization's approach to regional economic development through encouraging innovation and addressing capital infrastructure issues. Mr. Rogel also spoke about the Partnerships regional scorecard that measures the economic health of our region compared to Atlanta, Jacksonville, Charlotte, and Raleigh-Durham; and the value as a diagnostic tool for directing improvement efforts. Mr. Rogel also discussed the concept of Tampa Bay collaborating within a larger mega region including Orlando, Jacksonville, and South Florida to magnify our efforts by working together toward common issues to compete in a global marketplace. Mr. Rogel also outlined current initiatives the Partnership is working on; a re-visioning process to focus what the next 50 years will bring, developing a blueprint for economic development keyed in on developing a location cluster analysis, continued focus on the regional transportation systems, and developing leadership through our legislative delegation.

Mr. Abberger discussed the upcoming May 1st meeting and gave an overview of the task force mission and objectives. Mr. Abberger also described major concepts for the upcoming report and requested that task force members prepare and provide input, in preparation for facilitated exercises to help prepare the report scheduled for May 7th and May 11th.

During public comment the Task Force heard different ideas on Growth Management in Florida, the Comprehensive Plan in Hillsborough County and the I-4 Corridor Economic Study.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:10 a.m.