

# ENTERPRISE ZONE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

## 2008 - 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

### EZ BOUNDARY CHANGE

- **October 8, 2008** - Application was submitted to the Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development (OTTED) for the boundary change to include the Tallahassee Regional Airport and surrounding areas, and Commonwealth Business Center. Removed other areas to maintain the maximum size of the zone at 20 square miles.
- **October 30, 2008** - OTTED approved the boundary change effective November 1, 2008 to December 31, 2015.
- **July 8, 2009** - Leon County Board of County Commissioners approved.
- **July 9, 2009** - City of Tallahassee Board of County Commissioners approved.

### MARKETING EFFORTS

#### Mail Campaign

The EZDA continued to mail postcards to businesses and residents applying for building permits and new business licenses. In partnership with City staff and the Tallahassee-Leon County Planning Department mail outs are sent on a quarterly and monthly basis.

- **Postcard Mail-Out** - 2% response from City new business owners; 9% response from the Planning Department building permits.
- **Letter Mail-Out** - 5% response rate from City and 20% from the Planning Department. The Planning Department's responses include 83% from owners and 17% from contractors.

#### Public Forums

- January 13, 2009 - Tallahassee Board of Realtors (attendees: 100)
- February 12, 2009 - Certified Commercial Investment Members of Tallahassee (attendees: 30)
- March 10, 2009 - FL Chapter of Certified Public Accountants for one CPE credit. (attendees: 88)
- April 17, 2009 - Commonwealth tenants, hosted by EDC partner, Gates That Open, LLC. (attendees: 22)
- May 6, 2009 - Airport Tenants (attendees: 33, including airlines and businesses on airport property)

### MEASURABLE GOALS

#### Increase the number of:

- Applicants • Full-time jobs • Public forums • Web site traffic

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 442 Enterprise Zone incentive applications approved; resulting \$1,789,049.83 in tax refunds or credits, exceeding the annual goal of filing 31 applications.
- 5 workshops were held this fiscal year with a total of 273 attendees; exceeding the goal of 2 workshops.
- 14 full-time jobs were created in the EZ; not exceeding the goal of 372. The existing goals were established for OTTED in FY 2005-2006. First year of reporting under the new goals, a large manufacturing company moved to Tallahassee resulting in a larger than normal number of jobs created; therefore, this goal continues to be difficult to obtain.
- 1,724 parcel IDs/address searches on Web site; exceeding the annual goal of 1,087. Since June 2008, the EDC's new Web site provided an enhanced search for addresses in the EZ. This service assists consultants, the EDC, businesses and individuals in determining if an address is in the zone.

### EZDA Board of Commissioners

Johanna Money

The Williams Group

EZDA Chairman

Commissioner Bryan Desloge Designee

### Leon County Commissioner

Bob Rackleff

Vice Chairman

### Kenneth Barber

Kenny Barber & Associates

Resident living in the EZ

### Keith Bowers

Bowers Group

Mayor John Marks Designee

### Regina Davis

Frenchtown CDC

Non-profit community-based organization

### James Lockley

Florida A&M University Police

local law enforcement agency

### Robert Mazur

SunTrust Bank

Local financial agency in the EZ

### Kimberly Moore

Workforce Plus

local workforce development organization

### Emma Smith

Leon County Growth &

Environmental Management

local code enforcement

### Todd Sperry

President, Sperry Consulting

Chair, Chamber Growth

Management & Infrastructure Committee

### Gene Telfair

FAMU Credit Union

business operating in the EZ

### Beth Kirkland

EDC Executive Director

### Nicole Singletary

EZDA Administrator

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# ENTERPRISE ZONE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

## Our Business Secret # 14

***“In 2008-2009, 394 applications submitted, resulting in \$1,714,800 in tax incentives granted.”***

“We love living in downtown Tallahassee. When we outgrew our home we decided to add on to our house rather than move. After pulling our permits we received an informational postcard from the Enterprise Zone about the state tax refund. The EDC was extremely helpful throughout the process and made it simple for us to receive our refund.”

Sarah Harris



“I built my home in 2006. Since I built within the Enterprise Zone boundaries I received a sales tax refund on the building materials purchased for the new construction. It was a welcome surprise to find out that as an enterprise zone resident I was able to take advantage of the sales tax refund for building materials. The refund was very helpful to me to reduce the expense of the project and I appreciated the assistance the EDC provided.”

Kim Jefferson



“Syn-Tech Systems, Inc., a member of the local business community since 1970, received business equipment sales tax refund and jobs credit through the Enterprise Zone (EZ) Incentive Program. The sales tax refund resulted in the equipment purchases and job creation within the zone.

We were very pleased to learn of the Enterprise Zone credits available to a business in our location, and with the help of the EDC, we were able to obtain these benefits. Certainly, these incentives provide vital benefits for employers, new employees and the community as a whole and we are gratified to be a part of it!”

Doug Dunlap, President

Syn-Tech Systems, Inc.



“Danzy Designer Home, has built several homes throughout the Leon & Gadsden County Community and has recently developed projects within the Enterprise Zone which enabled them to apply for the building materials sales tax refunds through the Enterprise Zone (EZ) incentive program. The company’s vision is to create a new standard of excellence in the home building experience whether it is a custom dream home or building affordable homes.

“To have learned about the Enterprise Zone credits and incentive program was a great benefit and most of all to know the Economic Development Council (EDC) is really working to make sure that these incentives continue to be available for the community is a plus. We truly appreciated the assistance that the EDC provided in making sure that we benefited from the incentives available it was not only helpful but also an educational experience.”

Quran Wilson, Vice President of Operations

Danzy Companies, Inc.

Economic Development Council of Tallahassee/Leon County, Inc.

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