



About
Sarasota County

Relocation, Expansion
& Business Assistance

Innovation &
Entrepreneurial
Resources

Partner with the EDC

Data Center



[Kathy Baylis](#)
President & CEO

President's Report - January 2010

Forward into 2010 we boldly go....

Welcome to the year 2010....a New Year filled with many wonderful possibilities for our community, state and nation. We are coming out of one of the worst recessions to hit our country in many, many years and here in Sarasota County we have felt some of the most significant impacts. However, being the optimistic people that we are, we know smoother roads are ahead and our community will once again be a shining star. Here at the EDC, the year 2010 brings much promise to our local businesses as we continue and embark on exciting initiatives to facilitate job creation.

This next year we will begin an **aggressive recruitment campaign** targeting businesses that are compatible with our assets. We will continue our **international program** by connecting local businesses with opportunities to market their products and services. In 2010, we plan to focus on opportunities with Panama. **Economic Gardening** for second stage growth companies will continue and grow significantly next year with its very focused and comprehensive approach to assisting local companies to grow. In this next year also watch for announcements about a **business incubator** and other support initiatives for entrepreneurs.

Now is the time to be **bold** and think about **BIG** ideas. Now is the time to **courageously** go into 2010.

Success Group International Relocates to Sarasota County

We are pleased to announce that Success Group International (SGI), a division of Clockwork Home Services, will be relocating their headquarters from St. Louis to Sarasota County in 2010. SGI expects to fill 30 positions in Sarasota over the next two years. The EDC assisted SGI in applying for state and local incentives that encouraged the company to relocate. [\[more\]](#)

EDC Board Votes to Oppose Amendment 4

The EDC board of directors unanimously voted to oppose Amendment 4 which will be on the ballot in November 2010. If approved, the Amendment would require that all land use changes, no matter how big or small, would require a vote of the electorate.

The EDC board's vote followed a recommendation from the Business Climate Committee chaired by Teri Hansen and Kevin Hicks. The reasons for opposition include:

- If passed, Amendment 4 would send a strong message that the State of Florida's business climate is unfriendly to businesses and could devastate future economic development.
- The great majority of land use changes are for technical reasons and have little relevance to growth or development.
- The law limits the amount of words on a ballot and it would be difficult to explain each change to the average voter.
- The cost of the elections would be enormous and would burden already stressed public sector budgets.

EDC Board Meeting Re-Cap

During the EDC board meeting in December the board heard the following reports and took the following actions:

- Approved a resolution to OPPOSE Amendment 4
- Approved the EDC's state legislative priorities for 2010. to review the list of priorities [click here](#).
- Authorized the EDC president and CEO to sign a contract with Moule and Polyzoides to conduct a planning Charrette for about 300 acres east of I75 along Fruitville Road. The EDC will be administrator of the contract.
- Discussed the EDC's role as a convener to discuss regulator issues that place a burden on businesses.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming activities:

[January 22](#) – Economic Outlook 1212, Michael's On East

This annual luncheon will feature the often quoted economist, Dr. Sean Snaith from the University of Central Florida as the keynote speaker. The event will also include a panel of local CEOs discussing their perspective of the economy.

Panelists are:

- Rob Campbell, CEO, Voalte
- Jeffrey Jones, CEO, JCI Jones Chemical
- Robert Meade, CEO, Doctor's Hospital

This popular event always sells out early so be sure to [make your reservations](#) soon.

[February 10](#) – Investor Update Breakfast, Laurel Oak Country Club

[About Us](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Request Information](#) | [Home](#)

Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County
2601 Cattlemen Road Suite 102
Sarasota, FL 34232
Tel: (941) 309-1200 | Fax: (941) 309-1209

If you do not wish to receive any emails from this company, [click here](#)

Your email address

A friend's email address

Another friend's email address