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DATE: MAY 16, 2021

TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: STAFF

SUBJECT: COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDs) UPDATE

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On Monday, September 13, 2021, the South Florida Regional Planning Council officially initiated the 5-year update of the CEDs for 2022 – 2027 with an inaugural CEDs Strategy Committee Meeting convened by CEDs Committee Chair Senator Geller.

The CEDs Strategy Committee consists of many of the region’s key public, private, non-profit, educational, labor, and resiliency leaders. The CEDs Strategy Committee’s work will be supported by Council staff and additional subject matter experts and leaders from the region.

The Economic Disaster Recovery Coordinator (EDRC), in coordination with the CEDs Project Manager, and CEDs Committee Chair organized the CARES Act/CEDs committee meetings. Over six months, the CEDs Strategy Committee met as a large group and individually to pursue its work of developing an economic resilience plan to align with the CEDs plan. The process included multiple discussions per month amongst the stakeholders and staff. In all, more than 20 agencies participated in the process representing critical focus areas of *Economic Diversification, Business Attraction & Workforce Development, Mobility & Access, and Environment & Resilient Infrastructure*. The second and third organizational meetings of the CEDs Strategy Committee, consisting of the region’s top public, private, academic, and non-profit leaders, were held both virtually and in person on December 6, 2021, March 14, 2022, and May 9, 2022, respectively.

At these meetings, regional experts discussed goals and objectives and overall plan-making. The focus groups conveyed their category’s highest priority issues and strategies to address those issues, identified priority projects available to engage those strategies, and determined the resource gaps. Work group members collaborated with their staff to return to SFRPC a list of projects, challenges, and outcomes for success. The EDRC incorporated their feedback into a priority project matrix aligned with the CARES and CEDs goals and objectives and refined the evaluation framework. The work group members agreed and approved the Evaluation Framework for the CARES Act program that will be based on two primary components: (1) the Argonne and FEMA County High-Level Economic Recovery and Resilience Index (CHERRI) and (2) Outcomes of Successful Projects.



The draft report submitted to the CEDS Strategy Committee provided details related to either completed local community and region wide projects that have been funded and implemented to support economic resiliency, or projects that are in the planning process but have not been launched or funded. A draft Economic Resilience Plan was submitted for review and feedback to the CEDS Strategy Committee members on March 14.

At the March 14<sup>th</sup> and May 9<sup>th</sup> meetings the CEDS Strategy Committee members approved the 2022 – 2027 CEDS vision statement, SWOT analysis, and goals and objectives.

### Recommendation

Information Only