

NEWS RELEASE

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TAMPA BAY PARTNERSHIP EXPANDS TO EIGHT COUNTIES Partnership Board Votes to Accept Citrus County as Economic Development Partner

TAMPA BAY, FL (March 26, 2010) –The Tampa Bay Partnership Board of Directors today voted to accept Citrus County and the Citrus County Economic Development Council as an economic development partner in the organization. Citrus County will expand to eight the number of counties which comprise the Tampa Bay Partnership.

Earlier this month, Citrus County Economic Development Council and the Citrus County Commission each voted unanimously to join the Tampa Bay Partnership at a leadership level.

“We are excited about the assets and opportunities Citrus brings to our region,” said Gary Sasso, Tampa Bay Partnership Chair. “We’re building for the future and we look forward to a long-term relationship with Citrus as a committed partner.”

“Strategic relationships created through the Tampa Bay Partnership enhance everyone’s ability to be more competitive,” added Tom Patton, Executive Director of the Central Florida Development Council and Chair of the Tampa Bay Partnership’s ED Partners Council. “This is an opportunity for Citrus County to be part of one of the premier regional organizations in the country and we look forward to their partnership.”

“It makes sense to work with as many communities as possible. Since its inception, the Tampa Bay Partnership has been a collaboration of counties, communities and private businesses coming together to build economic development in the Tampa Bay region,” said Stuart Rogel, President & CEO of the Tampa Bay Partnership. “With today’s vote by our Board of Directors, the Tampa Bay region becomes stronger and more competitive.”

“Joining the Tampa Bay Partnership is an opportunity for Citrus County to get help not only with business development but all issues facing our community such as infrastructure and regional connectivity,” said Commissioner Joe Meek, President of the Citrus County Economic Development Council. “We have already been working on a regional basis through the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA) so it is a natural extension to expand to partnering with the Tampa Bay Partnership.”

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About Tampa Bay Partnership:

The Tampa Bay Partnership is the regional organization that brings the communities of Tampa Bay together to accelerate life's possibilities through advocacy, marketing, research and leadership. Founded in 1994, the Tampa Bay Partnership provides regional economic development for the metro areas of Tampa/St. Petersburg/Clearwater, Lakeland, and Bradenton/Sarasota/Venice and the counties of Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, and Sarasota.

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