



Broward County

Legislation Text

File #: 24-240, Version: 1

Broward County Commission Regular Meeting

Director's Name: Glenn Wiltshire (Acting Director)

Department: Port Everglades

Division: Business Development

Information

Requested Action

MOTION TO ADOPT Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners of Broward County, Florida, granting renewal of a nonexclusive, unrestricted Port Everglades steamship agent services franchise to Seaport Hub Agencies, Inc., for a new five-year term; providing for franchise terms and conditions.

Why Action is Necessary

Pursuant to Section 32.22 of the Broward County Administrative Code ("Administrative Code") and the applicable provisions of Chapter 94-429, Laws of Florida, Broward County (the "County") must hold a public hearing prior to granting, renewing, placing on probation, suspending, or revoking a franchise.

What Action Accomplishes

Allows for the Broward County Board of County Commissioners' consideration of the Resolution granting renewal of a nonexclusive, unrestricted Port Everglades steamship agent services franchise to Seaport Hub Agencies, Inc., for a new five-year term.

Goal Related Icon(s)

- ☒ County Commission
- ☐ Go Green
- ☐ MAP Broward

Previous Action Taken

Request to Set Public Hearing was approved by the Board on February 20, 2024 (Item No. 21).

Summary Explanation/Background

THE PORT EVERGLADES DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDS APPROVAL.

This action supports the Broward County Board of County Commissioners' ("Board") Value of "Building partnerships and working collaboratively with others to meet shared objectives" and the Goal of "Ensuring economic opportunities and a sustainable economy, with an emphasis on Broward's lower and middle class."

Seaport Hub Agencies, Inc. ("Seaport") has provided steamship agent services at Port Everglades since 2018. On April 09, 2019 (Item No. 41), the Board approved a nonexclusive, unrestricted steamship agent services franchise effective from May 8, 2019, through May 7, 2024. Seaport has applied for renewal of the franchise.

Staff reviewed the steamship agent services franchise renewal application against the enumerated renewal criteria outlined in Chapter 32 of the Administrative Code. Staff's due diligence included, among other things: (a) corresponding with Seaport's representative to clarify franchise requirements; (b) reviewing Seaport's corporate status, resumes of executive staff, list of managerial personnel, business history/experience, litigation history, insurance certificate(s), financial documents and creditworthiness, discharge of previous financial obligations to the County, compliance with all franchise terms and conditions and established rules and regulations of the County, required licenses and certificates, company programs and policies, list of equipment to be used at Port Everglades, and statement of activities and actions indicating that Seaport has maintained a favorable service performance record in Port Everglades during the term of its prior franchise agreements; and (c) ensuring that Seaport has promoted and developed growth in the business activities, projects, or facilities of Port Everglades. Staff also reviewed Seaport's safety and environmental history and found no infractions.

Seaport has agreed to comply with all franchise conditions outlined in Section 32.24 of the Administrative Code by submitting the signed franchise application.

Based on the review of information provided in the franchise renewal application, staff recommends renewing the steamship agent services franchise. Per Section 32.19 of the Administrative Code, the County may grant steamship agent services franchises for up to five years. Consistent with past practice, staff recommends renewing the franchise for a five-year term.

The Resolution to Publish Notice of Public Hearing and the signed franchise application documents were attached to the Request to Set Public Hearing Agenda Item that the Board approved on February 20, 2024 (Item No. 21).

Source of Additional Information

Jorge Hernández, Director, Business Development Division, Port Everglades Department, (954) 468-3501.

Paula Serpa, Franchise and Business Permit Manager, Business Development Division, Port Everglades Department, (954) 468-0185.

Fiscal Impact

Fiscal Impact/Cost Summary

Seaport has paid the required annual fee of \$2,360 and will pay an additional \$9,440 in annual franchise fees over the franchise term, for a total of \$11,800.