



CHAMBER *of* COMMERCE

OF THE PALM BEACHES

May 24, 2023

The Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners
301 N. Olive Avenue
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Mayor Weiss and County Commissioners,

Re: Zoning Application of Palm Beach International Raceway, LLC.

The Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches supports the proposal to redevelop the former Palm Beach International Raceway to an industrial facility – the Palm Beach Logistics Center.

The raceway has been closed for more than a year now and the property serves no economic purpose in its current form. Palm Beach County would reap tremendous benefits if the owners of the property were allowed to proceed with their plan to construct an industrial center. This is one of those rare instances where no request is being made for zoning waivers as the area is already zoned for industrial use.

From an economic standpoint, the project will create employment opportunities during and after construction. It is anticipated that as many as 1,500 good quality jobs will be created following completion. Increased employment provides additional revenues for the producers and providers of goods and services and consequently increases sales tax revenues, thereby creating an upward economic spiral that ultimately benefits more than just those who are employed on the site.

In addition, it is estimated that Palm Beach County would receive \$1.7 million in initial impact fees plus \$4.6 million in annual tax revenues.

Not only does the project make economic sense, but the owners have also demonstrated concern for the environment by seeking to ensure that all environmental codes are respected. 50 ft buffers will be established on all sides of the site to safeguard the protection of the surrounding wetlands.

In short, this project does not require any waivers; this project is environmentally sound; this project is economically beneficial to Palm Beach County and is vital to our continued growth.

The recent ruling by a special magistrate on this matter is not binding on the Board of County Commissioners but it is also not unreasonable. We urge you to take that opinion as well as the voice of the business community into consideration as you ponder this proposal. We have no doubt that your vote to approve the Palm Beach Logistics Center will have a positive impact on the community.

Sincerely,

Donald Burgess
President & CEO