



## **Putnam County Economic Development Activity Report**

**January 1 through December 31, 2022**

Pursuant to the provisions of the Agreement made and entered into between the Putnam County Board of County Commissioners and the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce, this report for 2022 is furnished.

It should be noted that current VP, Economic Development Mark Litten began his new duties on August 3, 2022.

**1. The Chamber has continued to represent Putnam County with the following related entities:**

- Maintained/Enhanced working relationships with Enterprise Florida (EFI), Dept of Economic Opportunity (DEO), JAXUSA Partnership, Florida Power & Light, Seminole Electric/Clay Electric, North Florida Economic Development Partnership (NFEDP), Florida Economic Development Council (FEDC), International Economic Development Council (IEDC), CSX, TECO Gas, and the Southern Economic Development Council (SEDC).
- Represented Putnam County at 2022 FREDA Rural E.D. Summit in St Augustine, FL
- Attended JAXUSA Quarterly Business Development Committee Meetings
- Member – NFEDA Board of Directors
- Member – FEDC Advocacy Committee
- Member – IEDC Membership Advocacy Committee

**2. New & Existing Business Development Activity**

- Responded to 40 requests for information from firms looking to locate in Putnam County, up from 33 in 2021.
- Hosted 6 on-site visits, up from 4 in 2021. The six visits were hosted by Mark Litten since August.
- Worked on 11 active projects since August 2022, with a combined estimate of 2,092 jobs and over \$1 billion in new capital investment, should they all come to fruition.
- Continued to provide technical & demographic information to businesses, including manufacturing, site consultants, warehouse & distribution, and commercial firms.

- Continued work with committees to address workforce issues, broadband initiatives, and future infrastructure needs.
- Continued to make Business Retention & Expansion (BRE) visits to existing Putnam County large employers.
- Provided ongoing assistance to numerous local businesses and matched them with resources when needed.

### **3. 2022 Highlights**

- Putnam County Unemployment Rate at 3.8% (as of November 30, 2022)
- Putnam County BOCC/Port Authority approved a Purchase/Sale Agreement for six (6) acres of land in the Putnam County Business Park for a distribution center project.
- Putnam County BOCC/Port Authority approved a Letter of Intent (LOI) for 15 acres of land in the Putnam County Business Park for Project Orange, a light manufacturing firm that will construct a 200,000 sf facility.
- Re-started Putnam County Economic Development Council Quarterly Meetings. First meeting held December 1, 2022. The Council had not met since 2019 due to Covid-19.

### **4. Other Activities**

- Participated in new Regional Strategic Action Plan process with JAXUSA for the 7-county region.
- Putnam County Chamber launched a new Economic Development website in July, 2022
- Placed full-page advertisements in Florida Trend Magazine and Business Facilities Magazine
- Ran an Over-The-Top (OTT) digital marketing campaign September/October, 2022
- Created a LinkedIn Page for Putnam County Economic Development Council (PCEDC)
- Participated in Local Technology Planning Team on extending broadband throughout the county
- Attended Putnam County Legislative Delegation Day
- Managed online property/site inventory databases with JAXUSA & NFEDP
- Managed Salesforce, a client management software tool
- Acquired Site Selectors Database, listing site consultants and commercial realtors in the USA
- Continued to work with local SBDC Director on entrepreneurial development.