



## ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item  
Meeting of April 25, 2009**

**DATE:** February 20, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Economic Development Strategic Plan “Arlington’s Framework for Prosperity”.

**C. M. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Endorse the Economic Development Commission Strategic Plan, “Arlington’s Framework for Prosperity”.

**ISSUE:** The Arlington Economic Development Commission (EDC) is requesting that the County Board endorse the economic development strategy that it developed to articulate desired economic development outcomes for Arlington.

**SUMMARY:** Appointed by the County Board to “Aggressively formulate and recommend to the County Board a continuing economic development policy for Arlington which utilizes market forces in a creative way”, the 25 members of the EDC created the first ever county-wide economic development strategy for Arlington. The plan entitled “Arlington’s Framework for Prosperity” was adopted by the EDC in September 2008.

**BACKGROUND:** After significant outreach by the EDC to business and community organizations beginning in 2006, the economic development strategic plan was adopted by the EDC in September, 2008. Included in “Arlington’s Framework for Prosperity” are four all-encompassing goals that articulate at the highest level the desired economic development outcomes for a successful community:

1. Arlington will be recognized for its superior business environment which includes world class facilities, infrastructure and systems.
2. Arlington will support a sustainable and flourishing economy which will contribute meaningfully to a fiscally sound and healthy community.
3. Arlington will be an inclusive and interconnected community that fosters an innovative and creative workforce, supported by effective workforce development programs.
4. Arlington will enjoy high quality places that ensure an exceptional quality of life and offer amenities that are valued by residents, businesses and visitors.

These four goals are supported by 17 strategic initiatives that identify achievable concepts and motivate the community to take action. The plan should be used to inform and inspire readers to understand the complexities, relationships and benefits of successful economic development and take the necessary steps to advance the determined initiatives.

County Manager: \_\_\_\_\_

Staff: Terry Holzheimer, AED

**DISCUSSION:** The Economic Development Commission conducted a significant outreach effort with the business community to produce the four goals outlined above. By endorsing this plan, the County Board will provide the business community with identifiable, achievable concepts.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** There are no immediate fiscal issues associated with this item. It is anticipated that adherence to the Economic Development Strategic Plan will increase Arlington's economic sustainability in the long term.