

April 30, 2021

Mr. Terry Suggs  
Putnam County Board of County Commissioners  
2509 Crill Ave  
Palatka, FL 32177

Dear Mr. Suggs:

I have enclosed the first quarter 2021 Putnam County Economic Development Activity Report.

If you have questions regarding this report, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Dana Cameron Jones  
President  
Putnam County Chamber of Commerce

# Putnam County Economic Development Activity Report

*January 2021-March 2021*

Pursuant to the provisions of the Economic Development Agreement made and entered into between the Putnam County Board of County Commissioners and the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce.

## **1. *New & Existing Business Development:***

- Hosted 3 on-site prospect visits.
- Responded to 5 requests for information from firms considering Putnam County.
- Assisted with a potential Opportunity Zone project to be located in the Palatka Zone.
- Continued to provide technical assistance to businesses, these included manufacturers, consultants, retail, and commercial businesses.
- Continue retention visits and meetings to local businesses remotely. Continue to hear issues related to getting employees back to work post pandemic.
- Currently working with 3 active clients.
- Met with JAX/USA liaison to discuss RFP for a large project (300 employees, \$500 million capital investment) to determine a site in Putnam.
- Assisted new call center client with location search and other related startup issues

## **2. *Related Agencies:***

- Maintained working relationships with Enterprise Florida, the Department of Economic Opportunity, JAXUSA Partnership, various utilities, North Florida Economic Development Partnership, the Florida Economic Development Council, SBA and other economic development agencies.

## **3. *Other Activities:***

- Continued to work with owner of 7220 PRC Way on a new marketing strategy for their property which will involve them purchasing additional property in the Business Park.
- Ran an ½ page ad in Florida Trend March issue advertising and promoting Putnam County.
- Continue to provide small businesses services and connecting them to resources, mainly centered on COVID-19 issues.
- Worked with workforce development partners regarding unemployment and potential retraining needs.
- Completed opportunity zone prospectus, mapping tool and web pages (floridapremieroz.com) to market the 3 Opportunity Zones within Putnam.
- Resumed monthly meetings with County Executive Director of Planning & Development Services.