

# TOWN COUNCIL



## STAFF REPORT

### Don Ryan Center for Innovation

<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	September 27, 2016
<b>PROJECT:</b>	Resolution Committing the Town of Bluffton to Providing a Local Match for a Municipal Association of South Carolina Hometown Economic Development Grant
<b>PROJECT MANAGER:</b>	David Nelems, Executive Director

**REQUEST:** Town Council approve a Resolution Committing the Town of Bluffton to Providing a Local Match for a Municipal Association of South Carolina Hometown Economic Development Grant.

**BACKGROUND:** The Municipal Association of South Carolina's (MASC) board of directors created and have earmarked \$200,000 for the inaugural 2016 Hometown Economic Development Grant program to fund economic development activities that have a positive impact on creating jobs and improving the quality of life in cities and towns. Beginning this fall, cities and towns can apply for grants up to \$25,000 to fund economic development projects that will produce measurable results, can be maintained over time by the city or town and can be replicated in other municipalities.

The Hometown Economic Development Grant program may be utilized for a number of eligible economic development activities including programs developed by a municipality or in partnership with others including, but not limited to, downtown development or revitalization; small business assistance or business incubators like the Town's Don Ryan Center for Innovation (DRCI). The DRCI, through the Town of Bluffton intends to apply for the maximum award of \$25,000. If awarded, the grant funds will be used by the DRCI for advertising and marketing purposes as well as for educational session programming.

**INTRODUCTION:** Per the grant program municipalities that receive a grant must provide matching funds and show commitment to providing the local match through Council's adoption of a Resolution. The local match ranges between 5 percent to 15 percent of the grant award which is determined by population. The Town falls within the highest population category of 10,000+ resulting in a required 15-percent match which equates to \$3,750 for a full grant award of \$25,000. Staff has discussed the required match with the the Town's Finance Department and has confirmed the availability of funds. As such, staff requests the approval of the proposed Resolution committing to the local match for the grant application package.

**NEXT STEPS:** Upon Town Council's approval of the proposed Resolution, the DRCI will submit the grant application to MASC by Friday, September 30, 2016 for consideration.

#### **ATTACHMENT:**

1. Resolution

**RESOLUTION COMMITTING THE TOWN OF BLUFFTON TO PROVIDING  
A LOCAL MATCH FOR A MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH  
CAROLINA HOMETOWN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLUFFTON, here assembled on this 27 day of September 2016, that the Bluffton Town Council hereby commits to provide a local match of at least \$3,750 which equals the minimum 15-percent local match required by the Municipal Association of South Carolina, to support the Town of Bluffton application for a \$25,000 Hometown Economic Development Grant. These grant and local matching funds will be used for The Don Ryan Center for Innovation's programs, marketing and expansion plans. This resolution is made in regard to the submission of an application for Hometown Economic Development Grant funds to the Municipal Association of South Carolina on or before September 30, 2016.

THIS RESOLUTION SHALL BE EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY UPON ADOPTION,  
SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED AS OF THIS \_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_,  
2016.

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Lisa Sulka, Mayor  
Town of Bluffton

ATTEST:

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Town Clerk  
Town of Bluffton, South Carolina