

Economic Development is a priority to me. In this budget, we move things around to make it an even bigger priority for our county.

First, I will designate one of the positions funded in my office budget to be the county “Jobs Czar.” We will give the “Jobs Czar” new tools like authority over Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) to refocus them on economic development. I will also direct the “Jobs Czar” to establish a task force to examine and streamline all regulations put on employers in the county.

In addition, the “Jobs Czar” will have the authority to insure that every part of county government is working to improve the economy of the county.

A safe working environment and a safe community is vital for a successful business. Our budget continues to fund the Sheriff’s Targeted Enforcement Unit. They keep our lakefront, our beaches and our parks safe and open to the public.

Transportation is important to the economy too. The airport just had the 17th consecutive month of record-breaking growth. Our budget allows the airport to continue to grow and to draw more business travelers to the region.

Workers will be able to access work via all current bus routes in this budget. And we propose upgrading and expanding the transit system through Bus Rapid Transit. Our budget also provides new incentives for people with disabilities to travel to work and other locations via the bus.