

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SunTrust Bank Joins Pasco Economic Development Council Board

Lutz, Florida--The Pasco Economic Development Council (PEDC) announced today that SunTrust Bank is joining the PEDC Board of Directors. "We're very excited to have SunTrust as a Corporate Council member," said John Hagen, President/CEO. "SunTrust has such an important presence in our County, and we have wanted to strengthen our partnership with them for some time."

Corporate Council members are investors in PEDC at the \$10,000 annual level or above. Representing SunTrust Bank on the PEDC Board of Directors will be Mr. Lex Smith, Senior Vice President. The PEDC Board of Directors is responsible for governing the organization and leading the execution of *The Power of Six*, PEDC's strategic plan.

"I am thrilled to be serving on PEDC Board of Directors," said Smith. "As a lifelong resident of Pasco County, I truly believe that economic development is a critical aspect of continued growth--SunTrust Bank's increased investment is perfect timing." Smith, an active community leader, currently serves on the Pasco Hernando Workforce Board of Directors as Vice Chair and Audit Committee Chair.

The increased investment made by SunTrust will further advance PEDC's mission to lead Pasco County in the creation of a sustainable and diversified economy. "In these difficult times, it's particularly gratifying to see SunTrust step up and support our mission in a big way. They are great corporate citizens, and Lex Smith in particular is an absolutely super addition to our board. His financial acumen will be invaluable."

SunTrust Bank's mission is to help people and institutions prosper by providing financial services that meet the needs, exceed the expectations, and enhance the lives of its clients, communities, colleagues, and shareholders. SunTrust's 1,678 retail branches and 2,828 ATMs are located primarily in Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

The Pasco Economic Development Council promotes countywide economic development. Created in 1987 by a group of dedicated business and community leaders, it continues to be a strong partnership funded by corporate and public investors and focused on the economic vitality of Pasco County.

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