

# RESOLUTION

*of the*

**ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

*regarding*

## **GRANITE TELECOMMUNICATIONS, LLC QUALIFIED TARGET INDUSTRY TAX REFUND**

**Resolution No. 2016-M-21**

### **PREMISES**

**WHEREAS**, in 1994, the Florida legislature passed legislation establishing a “Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund Program” (“QTI Program”) to encourage the creation of new high-wage job opportunities in Florida by providing “tax refunds” to qualified target industries; and

**WHEREAS**, Granite Communications, LLC (Granite) is headquartered in Quincy, Massachusetts with satellite offices throughout the country; and

**WHEREAS**, Granite is a leading communications services provider for businesses with multiple locations and provides one-stop solutions for voice, data, internet, wireless, video and secure network options throughout the United States and Canada; and

**WHEREAS**, Granite employs over 1,500 employees nationwide and seeks to locate their new regional headquarters preferably in unincorporated Orange County; and

**WHEREAS**, Granite’s services include consolidation of multiple vendors and invoices under a single national supplier that provides a discounted service; and

**WHEREAS**, Granite anticipates creating approximately fifty-four (54) new jobs in Orange County at an average annual salary of at least \$50,472, which is 115% of the prevailing salary of \$43,889 in Orange County; and

**WHEREAS**, Granite anticipates that the new jobs to be created will include approximately fifty (50) sales positions and four (4) administrative positions; and

**WHEREAS**, Granite anticipates that these new jobs will be created according to the following schedule: Twenty-five (25) jobs by December 31, 2016 and twenty-nine (29) jobs in calendar year 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, Granite has applied to the Executive Office of the Governor, Department of Economic Opportunity for approval as a qualified QTI Program applicant, and has applied for \$270,000 in tax refunds from the State of Florida under the QTI Program, representing \$5,000 per job; and

**WHEREAS**, in order for Granite to be approved as a “qualified applicant” under the QTI Program, the Orange County Board of County Commissioners must adopt a resolution recommending the approval of Granite as a “target industry business,” and committing “local financial support” in an amount equal to 20% of the annual tax refund up to but not exceeding \$54,000 over the course of Granite’s eligibility as a “qualified applicant”; and

**WHEREAS**, competition for Granite expansion exists outside of Florida, and financial incentives are necessary to ensure that this project comes to Orange County.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ORANGE COUNTY:**

**Section 1.** The Board of County Commissioners of Orange County, Florida, hereby recommends that the State of Florida Department of Economic Opportunity approve Granite as a “qualified applicant” under the QTI Program.

**Section 2.** Subject to the terms of this Resolution, the Board hereby approves payments up to, but not exceeding, fifty four thousand dollars (\$54,000) in “local financial support” required under the QTI Program. Such amount shall be payable to the Economic Development Incentives Account within the Economic Development Trust Fund as specified herein.

**Section 3.** The Board’s promise to pay the amount specified in this Resolution is contingent upon (i) appropriation by the Board in each applicable year authorizing payment of the revenues hereunder, (ii) Granite receiving the designation as a “qualified applicant” in connection with the QTI program, and (iii) on an annual basis, award by the State of Florida of tax refunds under the QTI program.

**Section 4.** Unless provided otherwise in this Resolution, the County shall pay “local financial support” in the following amounts:

FY 2017-2018	\$ 6,250
FY 2018-2019	\$ 13,500
FY 2019-2020	\$ 13,500
FY 2020-2021	\$ 13,500
FY 2021-2022	\$ 7,250
Total	<u>\$ 54,000</u>

Such sums shall be paid from any legally available source or sources of revenue other than those specified in the QTI Program (or rules promulgated thereunder) as being ineligible for such purpose.

**Section 5.** In the event Granite is approved by the State of Florida for tax refunds in an amount less than the \$270,000 requested, the “local financial support” to be paid by the County to the Economic Development Incentives Account shall be proportionately reduced so that at no time will the County contribution exceed twenty percent (20%) of the annual tax refund awarded to Granite under the QTI Program.

**Section 6.** This Resolution shall take effect upon receipt by the County of evidence that Granite has been approved as a “qualified applicant” and has become eligible for tax refunds under the QTI program, as described herein.

ADOPTED THIS JUN 28 2016 DAY OF June, 2016.



**ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
By: Board of County Commissioners

BY: *Teresa Jacobs*  
Teresa Jacobs  
County Mayor

**ATTEST: Martha O. Haynie, County Comptroller**  
As Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners

BY: *Martha O. Haynie*  
Deputy Clerk