

Lesley "Les" Miller, Jr., District 3  
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County Administrator  
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County Attorney  
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County Internal Auditor

January 7, 2020

International Economic Development Council  
734 15<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Suite 900  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear IEDC Members:

On behalf of Hillsborough County, I am pleased to welcome you to Tampa for the International Economic Development Council's 2020 Leadership Summit. We look forward to hosting you and invite you to enjoy all that our beautiful community has to offer in terms of dining, shopping, recreation and entertainment.

Hillsborough County is home to 1.5 million people and one of the fastest growing counties in Florida, ranking second in net migration growth among all counties in the state. In the next five years, Hillsborough County's population is projected to grow nearly nine percent, as talented professionals make their way to Tampa to find excellent career opportunities and an affordable cost of living.

We're very proud to note that Hillsborough County has one of the most diverse economies in America, ranking number four out of more than 3,100 counties, according to Chmura Economics and Analytics. Our technology industry is on fire. The Tampa metro area has the greatest STEM job demand in Florida, and CompTIA recently ranked Tampa among the best cities for IT jobs in the nation. Recruiter Robert Half also cited Tampa as one of the top cities in which companies are planning to expand their tech teams. We've known this to be true for quite some time, given the feedback we receive from top employers in the area who find exceptionally good tech talent here.

Our startup ecosystem is evolving, too, and with our robust network of incubators and accelerators such as Embarc Collective, Tampa Bay Wave, and the Hillsborough Entrepreneur Collaborative Center and capital providers like Florida Funders who are experts in helping technology companies to compete and succeed, the next decade is looking great for our new ventures.

With Inc. ranking Tampa among the top 20 surge cities in America, Huffington Post ranking us among the top 10 emerging destinations in the world, and Fundera applauding our city as one of the best in the nation for starting a business, the future looks pretty bright indeed.

I wish you a very productive Summit and a truly enjoyable stay here in Tampa and Hillsborough County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. Miller, Jr.', written in a cursive style.

Lesley "Les" Miller, Jr.

Chairman, Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners  
District 3