

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Camden Redevelopment Agency **held the Monthly Caucus on Wednesday, April 6, 2022** via tele-/videoconference.

Chairperson Ian Leonard called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Board Clerk Trainee Donna Arthur-Pettigrew called roll.

Present: Ian Leonard, Maria Sharma, Derek Davis, Jose Javier Ramos, and Marilyn Torres
Absent: Gilbert Harden, Sr.
Attendees: Olivette Simpson, Mark Asselta, Donna Arthur-Pettigrew, Sulena Robinson-Rivera, and Robert Quevedo Rodriguez, CRA; Jack Layne, DCA; Pilar Hogan, Executive Director and Enrique Rivera, Project Manager, St. Joseph's Carpenter Society (SJCS), and Trevor Vaughn, Urban Development Partners (UDP)

Mrs. Pettigrew advised the Board that, pursuant to the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act, notice(s) had been posted in the Courier-Post, the Philadelphia Inquirer, and the Office of the City Clerk.

Review of Minutes

Date of Meeting: March 2 and March 9, 2022

Motion: Ayes:

Nays: Abstentions:

Comments: Interim Executive Director Olivette Simpson advised that, upon review of the March Regular Meeting Minutes, Resolutions E and F, which involve the City of Camden, and similar actions taken at the March City Council were moved by Commissioner and Councilperson Torres. Board Counsel Mark Asselta further clarified: Ms. Torres was recorded in the Minutes as a Movant. Action to transfer the moving person from Ms. Torres to another Commissioner will be conducted during the Old Business portion of the Regular Meeting.

Interim Executive Director's Report

Date of Meeting: April 6, 2022

Comments: Interim Executive Director Olivette Simpson deferred a larger report to the Regular Monthly Meeting and utilized the time to acknowledge the contributions of two civic icons: Colandus "Kelly" Francis and Delbert J. Nelson.

Ms. Simpson read comments into the record.

Mr. Francis was the watchdog for the people. He held numerous leadership positions throughout New Jersey, including President of the NAACP of Camden County, Fair Share Housing, and Parkside Business & Community in Partnership (PBCIP) Board of Directors, and was a member of the Department of Environmental Protection's Citizens Advisory Committee. He was an outspoken presence at Camden City Council as well as other public meetings.

Delbert J. Nelson was a highly respected Ward leader as well as a founding member of Parkside Business & Community in Partnership (PBCIP), Vice Chair of the Camden Human Relations Commission, Eye in the Sky Committee, and District Council Collaborative member. He also served as the Mayors' Representative to Battleship New Jersey during two administrations.

Chairperson Leonard remarked he met Mr. Francis in 1996 and acknowledged that the late-leader would give you a fight on issues he believed in. He was someone who could not be ignored. His advocacy was always in the interest of the greater good of the City. His passing will be a big loss for the City.

Public Comments

Ms. Simpson recognized Ms. Pilar Hogan Closkey of SJCJ. Ms. Closkey did not have comments, but she was present to answer any questions that the Board may have pertaining to Resolution B.

Old Business

Due to lack of quorum with members eligible to vote on Resolutions E and F, Mr. Asselta postponed action regarding the previously mentioned Resolutions.

New Business

None.

Executive Session

Mr. Asselta announced the purpose of the Executive Session pertained to an update on the Dranoff litigation as well as Planned Parenthood contract negotiations.

Moved by Mr. Davis, seconded by Commissioner Maria Sharma, and affirmed by all by voice vote.

Commenced at 6:18 PM and concluded at 6:27 PM.

Chairperson's Remarks and Observations

None.

Adjournment

Ms. Sharma made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Ms. Torres, and affirmed by Roll Call vote by all Commissioners. The meeting ended at approximately 6:28 PM.