

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Camden Redevelopment Agency **held a Reorganization and Regular Monthly Meeting on Wednesday, January 9, 2019** Camden City Hall, City Council Chamber, in Camden, New Jersey.

Chairperson, Marilyn Torres called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 PM. Board Clerk Sulena Robinson-Rivera called roll.

Present: VB, IL, JR, MS, and MT

Absent: SD

Attendees: Olivette Simpson, Sulena Robinson-Rivera, Johanna Conyer, James Harveson, Carla Rhodes, and Mark Asselta, Esq; CRA, Kelly Francis, Camden NAACP; Laverne Williams, 1655 Park Blvd

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

Reorganization of the Board

General Counsel, Mark Asselta, presided over the reorganization of the Board which entailed the nomination and vote for Chairperson from approximately 6:00 PM to 6:06 PM and explained the process for nomination and election of officers and added that because there are five commissioners present a vote of 3 or more would be required to pass the vote. He added that that a vote for Secretary does not occur but by statute that is the role of the Executive Director. He asked for nominations for Chairperson. Commissioner Sharma moved to nominate Marilyn Torres as Chairperson; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Leonard. The nomination were closed, then Board Counsel called from a motion to vote on Commissioner Torres as the Chairperson, Commissioner Sharma made the motion which was seconded by and Commissioner Leonard. The nominations were closed, then Mark Called for vote, Leonard made a motion which was seconded by Commissioner Sharma. The vote carried and Commissioner Torres was named Chairperson to the board and presided over the remainder of the vote and the meeting. Commissioner Ramos nominated Ian K. Leonard for Vice Chairperson and Commissioner Sharma seconded the nomination. The nominations closed, then Commissioner Sharma made a motion to select Commissioner Leonard for Vice Chairperson and it was seconded by Commissioner Ramos. The Chair called for a vote, Commissioners Bowman, Leonard, Ramos, Sharma, and Torres voted, yes. Commissioner Leonard nominated Commissioner Sharma for Treasurer and Commissioner Ramos seconded the nomination. Nominations closed, then, the Chair called for a vote; all Commissioners voted, yes.

Review of Minutes

Dates of Meeting: December 5 and December 12, 2018

Motion: JR, MS **Ayes:** VB, IL, JR, MS, and MT

Nays: **Abstentions:**

Comments: There were no comments or questions.

Interim Executive Director's Report

Date of Meeting: January 9, 2019

Motion: JR, IL **Ayes:** VB, IL, JR, MS, and MT

Nays: **Abstentions:**

Comments: Ms. Olivette Simpson, Interim Executive Director, wished all a Happy New and spoke to the busy workload anticipated in the achievement of both the City and the CRA in 2019.

Redevelopment Project Presentation

None.

Resolutions for Review and Action

01-09-19A Resolution Authorizing the Amendment of a Shared Services Agreement with the City of Camden for Affirmative Action Officer Services And Compliance Officer Services to Extend the Term of the Agreement

Motion: **Ayes:** VB, JR, MS, and MT

Nays: **Abstentions:** IL

Comments: Commissioner Bowman asked when the initial vote on this action occurred. Mark Asselta advised the action came before and was approved by the board in July 2018. Mr. Bowman reiterated his suggestion to identify the name of the person who will be performing the task. Ms. Simpson noted that the CRA named Dwaine Williams, a member of the CRA, to perform the duty. Mr. Bowman asked Board Counsel to recall previous discussion on the matter and to restate the resulting revisions to the agreement and resolution. Board Counsel noted the resolution will be amended to identify the name of the CRA employee. Mr. Bowman asked for a copy of the previous resolution and the contract. Commissioner Leonard commended Mr. Williams and his role on the Affirmative Action Committee. There were no further comments or questions.

01-09-19B Resolution Establishing the Board of Commissioners' Meeting schedule for 2019

Motion: MS, JR **Ayes:** VB, IL, JR, MS, and MT

Nays: **Abstentions:**

Comments: There were no questions or comments.

01-09-19C Resolution Designating the Courier-Post Newspaper as the Official Newspaper for the City of Camden Redevelopment Agency

Motion: MS, JR **Ayes:** VB, IL, JR, MS, and MT

Nays: **Abstentions:**

Comments: There were no comments or questions.

Public Comments

Ms. Laverne Williams asked regarding resolution 01-09-19 who the CRA employee assigned to do this task is and for a copy of the job description, his resume, and the minutes of this evenings meeting.

Mr. Francis asked for an update regarding acquisition of property within block 185. Ms. Simpson advised that the acquisition concluded in early 2018 and the CRA acquired three properties and in one instance the occupant was relocated outside of the City of Camden. Mr. Francis inquired about the renovations that appear to be taking place in one of the remaining privately owned structures. He asked whether permits were issued for the work being done and if they were not support with ceasing the unauthorized work for fear of fire or other public hazard. Board Counsel suggested that Mr. Francis inquire with the City of Camden Building Department and that CRA also inquire. Mr. Francis asked whether eminent domain could be exercised to remove the remaining families from what he believes to be an unsafe living environment. Ms. Simpson noted that the CRA by law cannot exercise eminent domain in Lanning Square.

Old Business

Board Counsel Mark Asselta noted for the record, discussion from Executive Session during December 2018 meeting, the Board's consensus permitting the carryover of 50% of the Interim Executive Director's vacation time.

New Business

None.

Executive Session

None.

Chairperson's Remarks and Observations

None.

Adjournment

Commissioner Bowman made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Commissioner Ramos and affirmed by all commissioners via voice vote and the meeting ended at approximately 6:35 PM.