

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Camden Redevelopment Agency **held a Regular Monthly Meeting on Wednesday, May 8, 2019** Camden City Hall, City Council Chamber, in Camden, New Jersey.

Vice- Chairperson, Sheila Davis called the meeting to order at approximately 6:01 PM. Board Clerk Sulena Robinson-Rivera called roll. Commissioner Leonard arrived after roll at 6:03pm.

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

Absent: MT

Attendees: Mark Asselta, Johanna Conyer, James Harveson, Sulena Robinson-Rivera, and Olivette Simpson; Sheila Roberts, Ritha Custis, Sherry Johnson, Camden Residents; Father Gerard C. Marable, Sacred Heart, Rev's Bernadette and Willie Anderson, Sword of the Spirit Church

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.

Review of Minutes

Dates of Meeting: April 10, 2019

Motion: VB, JR Ayes: VB, SD, IL, JR, and MS

Nays: Abstentions:

Comments: There were no comments or questions.

Interim Executive Director's Report

Date of Meeting: May 1, 2019

Motion: JR, VB Ayes: VB, SD, IL, JR, and MS

Nays: Abstentions:

Comments: Ms. Olivette Simpson, Interim Executive Director noted the comments would stand as presented at the Caucus meeting.

Redevelopment Project Presentation

None.

Resolutions for Review and Action

05-08-19A Resolution Authorizing the Public Sale of Certain CRA Owned Properties and Establishing the Minimum Bids, Conditions and Restrictions for the Public Sale

Motion: IL, JR Ayes: VB, SD, IL, JR, and MS

Nays: Abstentions:

Comments: There were no comments or questions.

05-08-19B Resolution Authorizing the Sale of Block 405 Lot 1 and Block 340 Lot 35 of the City of Camden Tax Map to XXX Pursuant to the Public Sale of Such Properties at Auction Held on May 8, 2019.

Motion to Withdraw: VB, IL Ayes: VB, SD, IL, JR, and MS

Nays: Abstentions:

Comments: Ms. Simpson requested through the Chair that Resolution # 05-08-19B be withdrawn. She announced that the public auction was held as scheduled; however, no bidders attended. There were no further comments or questions.

Public Comments

Father Gerard C. Marable of 751 Kaighns Ave expressed concerns about Resolution 05-08-19B, specifically the auction of the property. He fears the community will not have any opportunity to opine on change of ownership and end use. He also noted concerns regarding parking, traffic, and the status of currently one-way streets. He would like the community to be involved in the discussions regarding the sale and redevelopment of the site. Ms. Simpson noted that the CRA in holding the public sale is acting as the City's agent; she expressed that she would take his comments back to the city and appropriate parties. Mark Asselta, Board Counsel, added, the concerns regarding parking, traffic, and zoning are issues for the City's Planning and Zoning Boards, and not the CRA. Commissioner Bowman asked why a redevelopment plan could not be prepared for this site. Ms. Simpson noted that it is a city (the governing body) decision to direct funds and the planning board to undertake a redevelopment study and designation.

Sheila Roberts of 578 Washington Street asked whether the site related to Resolution 05-08-19B is in Bergen Square. Ms. Simpson confirmed. Ms. Roberts mentioned a community group that meets at least monthly in Wesley Church regarding redevelopment of Bergen including this site. She also mentioned that this group is including this site in its plans. It was suggested that she reach out for the City's Director of Planning and Development site specifics.

Ms. Sherry Johnson of 644 Line Street asked that the CRA owned parcel behind her (Block 292, Lot 129) be maintained. Ms. Simpson noted and advised the CRA would seek to remedy, as soon as possible and Commissioner Leonard offered his assistance to the constituent in resolving this matter.

Sheila Roberts spoke to nominate developers such as Michaels, M&M, and St. Joseph's Carpenters Society to redevelop 724 and 722 Washington Street (a CRA owned property in Cooper Plaza).

Old Business

None.

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 Leonard, all affirmed via voice vote and the meeting ended at approximately 6:30 PM.