

ECONOMIC RECOVERY BOARD FOR CAMDEN

April 26, 2011

Waterfront Technology Center, Camden, NJ

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Members of the Board present: Alberta Hyche, Chairwoman, designee for State Treasurer Sidamon-Eristoff; Rev. J. C. Jones, Vice Chairman; Caren Franzini designee EDA Chairman, Al Koeppel; Ralph Kramer designee for Mayor Dana Redd, Jason Asuncion designee for City Council President, Francisco Moran; Anthony Bucci for Freeholder Director Louis Cappelli, Jr., Non Voting Member; Public Members: Robert Milner, William Hosey, and Rodney Sadler.

Present via Conference Call: Melissa Orsen representing DCA Commissioner Lori Grifa.

Absent: Rosa Ramirez

Also Present: Laura Wallick, Assistant Secretary; Nicole Crifo, Governor's Authorities' Unit; Bette Renaud, DAG; and EDA staff.

Chairwoman Hyche called the meeting to order at 10am.

In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Ms. Wallick announced that notice of this meeting had been sent to the *Star Ledger*, the *Times*, and the *Courier Post* at least 48 hours prior to the meeting, and that a meeting notice has been duly posted on the Secretary of State's bulletin board at the State House.

A quorum of the ERB Board was present.

Chairwoman Hyche asked for a motion to approve the February 15, 2011 minutes of the Board.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Mr. Sadler SECOND: Mr. Milner AYES: 9

The next item, the Higher Education and Regional Health Care (HERHC) Development Fund \$1 million grant was presented for informational purposes only. Ms. Wallick advised that the purpose was to report the outcome of the review of the application proposals submitted by Virtua Health Systems (Virtua) and Cooper University Hospital (Cooper) for the grant.

Ms. Wallick stated that under Section C52 of the Municipal Rehabilitation and Economic Recovery Act (Act), \$1million was made available to Virtua under HERHC to establish an in-patient drug treatment facility in Camden. The HERHC fund allows funds to be used to provide grants to nonprofit educational institutions and regional health care facilities. Grants to nonprofit regional health care facilities are to be provided on a matching basis to allow for facility expansion, including but not limited to facilities for pre-admission testing, occupational health, health-related education facilities such as school of nursing and emergency room facilities. Each health care facility is required to raise one dollar for every three dollars provided by the State. Receipt of ERB grants is also conditioned on the nonprofit negotiating a service agreement with the City of Camden for payment in lieu of taxes.

In October 2010, the EDA was notified by Virtua it would not be pursuing the proposed project described in the Act. Instead, Virtua applied to the ERB for the \$1 million grant to be used to expand its emergency health care services.

Because Virtua chose not to advance the project defined in the Act, the \$1million appropriation lapsed into the HERHC fund. The EDA notified the other health care institutions eligible to apply for this new funding availability and requested their acknowledgement allowing Virtua to utilize the \$1 million for the expansion of their emergency services in Camden.

In response to this notification, Cooper advised the EDA it intended to apply to the ERB for the \$1 million to support the development of the Camden Cancer Institute project.

On January 10, 2011, the Members of the ERB approved a supplemental application and scoring criteria conditioned on including criteria specific to employment opportunities for Camden residents. This criteria was included in the supplemental application but was not included in the scoring criteria. The Members agreed to advance the proposal with the highest score and in the case of a tie, the \$1 million grant would be split evenly between the two applicants.

On March 3, 2011, Virtua and Cooper submitted their applications to the EDA. Both applications were independently reviewed and scored by EDA staff. Based on this review, the average score for Virtua's proposal was 11.5 points and the average score for Cooper's proposal was 14.5 points. Based on these results, Cooper's request for the \$1 million grant will be submitted for approval.

The next item was a \$1 million non-recoverable grant request from Cooper Health System **(P35976)** to fund a portion of the permanent financing for the Cooper Cancer Institute (CCI), a new 5-story comprehensive cancer center.

Ms. Wallick advised that the State of New Jersey identified the need for comprehensive cancer services in the southern New Jersey as a priority and designated Cooper to develop the necessary comprehensive cancer program to serve the City of Camden and the southern New Jersey region. Cooper is the only hospital in southern New Jersey with a dedicated inpatient oncology unit and the expertise to deal with complex hematology and oncology cases and has the capacity to build this cancer center.

The CCI will greatly enhance Cooper's facilities and its ability to expand its reach to the City of Camden, Camden County and surrounding communities. The new center will accommodate more visits by Camden residents and alleviate the burden of Camden residents having to leave the City for treatment and care. It is anticipated that more than 7,100 visits annually will be realized by Camden residents. The location of the facility will be easily accessible via public transportation due to its close proximity to the Walter Rand Transportation Center and the NJ Transit River Line service.

Ms. Wallick added that 200 construction jobs are anticipated to be created during the 2-year construction phase; not including additional jobs to support the project through building suppliers and other construction related needs.

She also remarked that CCI will have a direct employment impact on the City of Camden, creating 52 new full time positions when completed and relocating 48 full time employees to the Camden campus from existing locations outside of the City. Cooper is committed to implementing a plan to recruit and hire Camden residents to fill the identified positions. The new facility will have a total of 182 full time positions to support the cancer program and the new facility.

Following a discussion among the Board members regarding job creation and verification, Ms. Wallick summarized the Board's comments and stated that Cooper will be required to provide the following information prior to disbursement of the grant in addition to the identified disbursement contingencies: 1) quarterly reporting on construction jobs detailing the number of Camden residents employed during the construction phase; 2) verification of a Project Labor Agreement; 3) details of their apprenticeship program and quarterly reporting on program results; 4) information on their outreach to technical schools; 5) information on their relationship with Brimm Medical Arts High School; and 6) quarterly reporting on the permanent jobs to be created detailing the number of Camden residents employed.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Mr. Hosey SECOND: Mr. Sadler AYES: 9

The next items before the board were for informational purposes only.

Ms. Wallick stated that the following modifications were approved under Delegated Authority in March and April 2011.

Demolition & Redevelopment Financing Fund Modification:

1. City of Camden - Policing Equipment & Infrastructure Grant (P21754)

On March 25, 2008 the Members of the ERB approved a \$700,000 non-recoverable infrastructure grant to assist the Department implement a local proxy server and dedicated Internet to support an upgraded computer-aided dispatch and record management systems (CAD/RMS) that would enable the Department to more efficiently and effectively respond to crime.

On April 6, 2010 a seven-month extension until December 31, 2010 and a reallocation of \$141,315 in ERB funds were approved through delegated authority.

On January 3, 2011 a one-year extension to the term of the grant to December 31, 2011 along with an amendment to the project budget in the amount of \$78,486 for the expansion of the Shot Spotter were approved by delegated authority. To date, \$220,974 of the ERB grant has been disbursed.

This project is nearing completion and the City realized an opportunity to enhance the infrastructure improvements in a way that will also benefit another City of Camden Police Department project known as the Eye-in-the Sky project. The City requested an amendment of the project budget in the amount of \$44,781 (less than 10% of the project cost) to support additional server capacity and future phases of the Eye-in-the-Sky project. The funds will be used for the network upgrades needed to support the communications system, enhancing both Shot Spotter system and the Eye-in the Sky project. Along with the previously approved funding for the Shot Spotter system, which provides police with the location of shots fired, the cameras offer the additional benefit of seeing what is happening in real time.

All other terms and conditions will remain in full force and effect.

2. City of Camden – Eyes in the Sky Grant (P26953)

On July 27, 2010, the Members of the ERB approved a \$245,375 non-recoverable infrastructure grant to assist the Department in funding the cameras, equipment, repeaters, connectors, cabling, mounting brackets, protective enclosures and other related materials for a closed captions monitoring system. The ERB grant was to be used for cameras and related equipment in the Downtown District, Whitman Park, East Camden, Fairview, Parkside, North Camden, Morgan Village and Waterfront South.

The total project budget has increased from \$1,640,000 to \$1,940,000 due to additional funding from the US Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) in the amount of \$50,000, NJ State funding in the amount of \$50,000 and receipt of funding from the New Jersey State Department of Justice (DOJ) in the amount of \$200,000. The City requested an amendment to the use of ERB funds in the amount of \$99,000 (less than 10% of the total project cost) to include cameras, equipment, repeaters, connectors, cabling, mounting brackets, protective enclosures and other related materials for a closed captions monitoring system.

All other terms and conditions will remain in full force and effect.

Economic Recovery Planning Fund

1. Camden Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Neighborhood and Redevelopment Plans (P15686)

On March 23, 2004, the members approved a \$641,250 grant to CRA to fund a portion of 7 neighborhood plans and 14 redevelopment plans for the City of Camden. On January 23, 2007, the Members approved a modification to increase the grant amount to \$723,945 to fund an additional redevelopment plan for the Dudley neighborhood, a portion of the Camden Historic Survey and for additional staff time needed to update certain plans. The Members also approved an extension of the term of the grant agreement from May 19, 2006 to May 19, 2008.

On September 23, 2008, the Members approved a modification to CRA's planning activities under this grant to revise the scope of work and extend the term of the grant agreement to May 19, 2010.

The seven Neighborhood Plans were completed. The fourteen Redevelopment Plans were completed and submitted to the Planning Board. ERB funds were used in completing eleven of these plans and other in-kind sources were used for the remaining three development plans. To accommodate these new activities, the City requested an extension to this grant term to May 19, 2013 and a reallocation of \$61,166 for the North Camden planning activities. The reallocation of funds includes the cost savings of \$20,113 realized from the Liberty Park, Lanning Square and Gateway redevelopment plans and \$40,153 from the Liberty Park and Centerville neighborhood plans.

There has been no change to the total project budget of \$1,379,012. To date, \$327,069 in ERB funds has been disbursed. This request for the reallocation of ERB funds represents

4.4% of the total project cost.

All other terms and conditions will remain in full force and effect.

Chairwoman Hyche requested comments from the Board members.

Reverend Jones commented on the possibility of meeting with state legislatures in order to amend the ERB legislation to include the ability for the ERB to provide financing for public safety.

Chairwoman Hyche requested comments from the members of the public.

Mr. Colandus “Kelly” Francis, President NAACP of Camden commented on how Camden high schools should include more vocational training in order to better equip graduates to find work. He also asked if the ERB was maintaining data on construction employment created by projects financed by the Board. Ms. Franzini suggested he submit an OPRA request to the EDA to obtain such information. He also informed the Board of the results of the statewide Annual National ACT-SO academic competition. Camden students won 18 medals, 8 of which were gold.

Ms. Lisa Reed questioned the Governor's efforts to coordinate with the City and County in terms of public safety. Anthony Bucchi representing Freeholder Cappelli updated her on the efforts of the County, in coordination with the City, at the request of the Governor.

There being no further business, on a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Milner, and seconded by Ms. Franzini. The meeting was adjourned at 10:50.

Certification: The foregoing and attachments represent a true and complete summary of the actions taken by the State Economic Recovery Board for the City of Camden at its meeting.



Laura Wallick, Regional Director - South - EDA
Assistant Secretary, ERB