ECONOMIC RECOVERY BOARD FOR CAMDEN
April 27, 2010
Waterfront Technology Center, Camden, NJ

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Members of the Board present: Rev. J. C. Jones, Vice Chairman; Ralph Kramer designee for Mayor Dana Redd; Maureen Hassett designee for EDA Chairman Al Koeppe, Anthony Bucchi for Legislative Member Freeholder Director Louis Cappelli, Jr., Non-Voting Member; Public Members: William Hosey, and Rosa Ramirez.

Present via conference call: Melissa Orsen representing Acting DCA Commissioner Lori Grifa; Alberta Hyche designee for State Treasurer Sidamon-Eristoff and Public Member Robert Milner.

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

Absent: Francisco Moran, Council President; and Rodney Sadler, Public Member.

Assistant Secretary Wallick called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

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.

Vice Chairman Jones asked for a motion to approve the February 22, 2010 minutes of the Board.
MOTION TO APPROVE: Mr. Hosey **SECOND: Ms. Hassett** **AYES:** 7
Ms. Orsen abstained because she was not present at the February meeting.

The next item before the board, the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency ("HMFA") (P16969) was to approve a $3,500,000 increase to the $5,000,000 loan to the HMFA to fund subsequent phases of CHIP.
MOTION TO APPROVE: Mr. Hosey **SECOND: Ms. Ramirez** **AYES:** 8

The next item before the board was for informational purposes only. The members were advised of a transfer of funds in order to support existing program activities in the Camden Home Improvement Program ("CHIP"), Citywide Demolition and Stabilization projects and others.

Ms. Wallick advised that the Authority's CEO and Mayor Redd will reduce the level of funding for the BLI Program from $10 million to $7 million, which would increase the available funding under the Demolition and Redevelopment Financing Fund from $2,440,010 to $5,440,010. From this amount, $2,800,000 or 6.5% of the initial fund amount will be reallocated to the Residential Neighborhood Improvement Fund bringing this fund balance to $5,530,621 of which $3.5 million will be used to fund the expansion of the CHIP program and $2 million will be reserved for the Camden POWER project. The balance of funding remaining in the Demolition and Redevelopment Financing Fund will be $2,640,010 and will be used to support other projects in the pipeline i.e., an increase in the Citywide Demolition project and a Citywide Stabilization project.

The next items before the board were also for informational purposes on.

Projects approved under Delegated Authority in April 2010:

- Doganiero's Pharmacy, Inc. (P28607), located at 1201 Haddon Avenue in Camden City, and was approved for a $20,000 Business Improvement Incentive Grant to be used to renovate 200 s.f. of an existing building. The company has two employees and plans to create one additional position within the next two years.

Modifications approved under Delegated Authority in April 2010:

- 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). The City requested an extension of the grant until December 31, 2010 in order to complete the project and also requested the reallocation of $141,315 in ERB funds which is less than 10% of the project cost, to be used on an emergency back-up generator dedicated to the Department.

- Camden Redevelopment Agency (CRA) - Cooper Plaza Acquisitions (P20263) In March 2008, the CRA received a $1,532,950 recoverable infrastructure grant to fund the acquisition of 161 vacant lots and buildings within the Cooper Plaza Neighborhood in the City of Camden. In March 2009, CRA requested the first disbursement to fund 78 acquisitions. Due to staff shortages, CRA was not able to move into the next phase of negotiated purchase/condemnation with the remaining funds. The CRA is now poised to reactivate the acquisition process as one additional support staff person has been added to the Real Estate division. With the additional staff focused on this effort, CRA expects the balance of the acquisitions should take approximately 9-12 months to complete. The current grant term expires June 30, 2010 and given the aforementioned timeline, the grant was extended to June 30, 2011.

Vice Chairman Jones requested comments from the Public.

Danielle Esser, HMFA thanked the board for their support of the CHIP program.

Mr. Colandus "Kelly" Francis, President NAACP of Camden asked to be updated on the sole action item before the board, the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (P16969). Ms. Wallick advised the action was for a $3,500,000 increase to the $5,000,000 loan to the HMFA to fund subsequent phases of CHIP.

Mr. Francis provided an update on the NAACP's Annual ACT-SO competition. He stated that students from Camden High School attended the event in Newark a couple of weeks ago winning a total of 22 medals, including 10 gold. He added that the medals included top honors in science, math and biology and that two students won two gold medals each. He also remarked that the group increased their total medals over last year by one, and that they would attend the national competition in Kansas City in July.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

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 L Wallick

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