

**ECONOMIC RECOVERY BOARD FOR CAMDEN**  
**April 28, 2009**  
**Camden County College – Conference Center, Camden, NJ**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

Members of the Board present: Chairman Rousseau, State Treasurer; James Souder representing DCA Commissioner Joseph Doria, Jr.; Judge Theodore Davis, COO; Dennis Kille representing Mayor Gwendolyn Faison; Tina Vignali representing City Council President Angel Fuentes; Caren Franzini, representing EDA Chair Carl Van Horn; Non-Voting Legislative Member Assemblywoman Nilsa Cruz–Perez; Non-Voting Member Freeholder Director Louis Cappelli, Jr; and Public Members: Rodney Sadler, William Hosey, and Rosa Ramirez.

Also Present: Maureen Hassett, Assistant Secretary; Laura Wallick, Assistant Secretary; Bette Renaud, DAG; and EDA staff.

Absent: Rev. J. C. Jones, Vice Chairman; Robert Milner, Public Member; and Non-Voting Legislative Member Senator Dana Redd,

Ms. Hassett called the meeting to order at 10:30 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.

Chairman Rousseau entered the meeting at 10:35

Chairman Rousseau asked for a motion to approve the March 24, 2009 minutes of the Board.

**MOTION TO APPROVE: William Hosey SECOND: Rev. Jones AYES: 9**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING**

David Chojnacki, Director Business Services, Camden County College welcomed the board members to the Banquet Room at the college's conference center. He stated that the conference center has been open for two years, hosting approximately 150 events in its first year. He invited the members to view the theatre which was located right next door. It seats 174 and public information on the theater can be found listed on the Camden County College website. He remarked that the college is doing well, with record enrollments of 16,000 last spring. They hold basic education classes in the evenings to assist folks looking to obtain their high school equivalency diploma.

Chairman Rousseau asked Ms. Hassett to summarize the first item before the board, the Chief Operating Officer Salary and Benefits. Ms. Hassett noted that Member Rodney Sadler, on behalf of several board members recommended that the action would be held in order for it to be considered by the ERB Policy Committee prior to referral to the full board for action.

**MOTION TO APPROVE: Mr. Souder    SECOND: Ms. Ramirez AYES: 8**

Judge Davis abstained from the vote.

Chairman Rousseau asked Ms. Hassett to summarize the next item before the board, the Respond, Inc. – New Worker Job Development Center project (P015442). Ms. Hassett stated that the Members were being asked to approve a modification to extend the term of the ERB Grant Agreement until June 30, 2009.

Ms. Hassett stated that on June 22, 2004, the Members approved the \$1,000,000 public purpose grant to Respond. At that time, Respond had invested \$350,000 to purchase two commercial properties that required renovations in order to house a variety of social service programs for the residents of Camden as well as Camden County. The project was envisioned as an expansion of Respond's New Worker Center, located on Washington Street in the Lanning Square neighborhood in Camden.

However, due to the various sources and expiration of grant funds, the Center no longer offers the TANF or GA services and is only providing child care services. The child care center, funded by the NJ Department of Education and the Department of Human Services, will now be relocated to the project site, which will include vocational skills training and childcare for Camden residents.

On December 18, 2007, the Members of the ERB approved an extension to this grant term to March 31, 2009 as an exception to the ERB Guide to Program Funds (Guide) which states that the project must be "started in two years and completed in four years."

Ms. Hassett stated that the project construction is complete, Respond received a permanent certificate of occupancy on April 3, 2009, and a grand opening ceremony was held on April 16, 2009.

To allow sufficient time to compile and submit the required documentation to close on the ERB grant, Respond is requesting a three month extension of the grant agreement until June 30, 2009.

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

Chairman Rousseau requested comments from the members of the public.

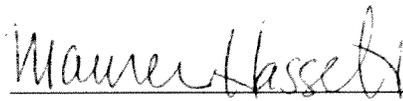
Mr. Colandus "Kelly" Francis, President NAACP of Camden provided the board members with an update on the Annual National ACT-SO academic competition which was held on Saturday, March 28, 2009. The Camden NAACP transported 70 high school students to Central High School in Newark. Mr. Francis stated that out of 32 possible medals, the Camden students were awarded 10 gold medals. The gold medalists were now eligible to compete in the national competition which will be held at the Hilton Hotel in New York City. He distributed a list of medal winners to the board members. Mr. Francis also stated that the NAACP is celebrating the 100th Anniversary of its founding. He remarked that the Anniversary celebrations being held in New York City where the organization began in 1909, all were welcome to attend and he would provide details when they became available.

Chairman Rousseau requested comments from the members of the board.

Ms. Hassett stated that she and Marge DellaVecchia met with a group of funders on April 21<sup>st</sup> at Campbell Soup headquarters. They gave the ERB presentation that was shown at the Annual ERB meeting. She noted it was good to hear the continuing support of the philanthropic community with specific interest in ERB project activity. It was noted that Sandy Johnson, the new Executive Director of CRA was amongst the attendees as well as other members of the Administration including Michellene Davis.

**There being no further business, on a motion by Mr. Souder, and seconded by Mr. Sadler, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 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.



Maureen Hassett, Senior Vice President, EDA  
Assistant Secretary, ERB