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

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Members of the Board present: Rev. J. C. Jones, Vice Chairman; Novella Hinson designee for Mayor Dana Redd, Caren S. Franzini designee for EDA Chairman Al Koeppe, Tina Vignali designee for City Council President Francisco Moran, Legislative Member Freeholder Director Louis Cappelli, Jr., Non-Voting Member; and Public Members: Rodney Sadler, William Hosey, and Rosa Ramirez.

Present via conference call: Alberta Hyche designee for State Treasurer Sidamon-Eristoff, and Robert Wright representing DCA Commissioner Lori Grifa.

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

Absent: Robert Milner, Public Member.

Assistant Secretary Wallick called the meeting to order at 10:05 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 April 27, 2010 minutes of the Board.
MOTION TO APPROVE: Mr. Hosey SECOND: Mr. Sadler AYES: 8

Ms. Ramirez and Mr. Cappelli entered the meeting at this time.

The next item before the board was a $245,375 non-recoverable infrastructure grant to assist the City of Camden's Police Department ("Department") in funding the costs associated with Phase 1 of the Camden CCTV Camera Program, also known as the Eyes in the Sky Project. The funds will be applied toward equipment, cameras, repeaters, connectors, cabling, mounting brackets, protective enclosures and other related materials for a closed captions monitoring system.
MOTION TO APPROVE: Mr. Sadler SECOND: Ms. Ramirez AYES: 9

The next item before the board was the approval of a $200,000 non-recoverable infrastructure grant to assist the CFDA in the planning, design and implementation of an extensive streetscape project for improving pedestrian and bicycle access linking Philadelphia with greater Southern New Jersey. The ERB funds will be used for architectural and engineering services for an in-depth study and assessment of the infrastructure along the Pine Street corridor. These activities will include base mapping, design development, construction documents, permits, and the bidding process so that the design component can be completed, making this project a 'shovel ready project' thus eligible for the $5.8 million Federal TIGER grant funding.
MOTION TO APPROVE: Mr. Hosey SECOND: Mr. Sadler AYES: 9

Freeholder Capelli left the meeting at this time

The next item before the board, New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency ("HMFA") Camden POWER - P32430, was ***withheld from consideration.***

The next item before the board, Cooperative Business Assistance Corporation ("CBAC") Camden POWER - P32234, was ***withheld from consideration.***

Ms. Wallick noted that a Special Meeting of the Economic Recovery Board may be held within the next few weeks to hear the projects held from this meeting.

The following items before the board were for informational purposes only:

Project approved under Delegated Authority in April 2010:

> **Elee Porter Rotando (P30892)** is the owner of a 1,200 square foot mixed-use property located at 1268 Haddon Avenue, Camden City. The applicant was approved for an $11,714 Business Improvement Incentive Grant to be used for building renovations. The proposed tenant plans to create two additional jobs over the next two years.

Modification approved under Delegated Authority in May 2010:

> **Camden Redevelopment Authority (CRA) Central Waterfront Temporary Parking (P16137)** On September 20, 2004, the Members of the ERB approved a $3,910,500 recoverable grant to fund the construction of temporary parking facilities in the Central Waterfront neighborhood. The scope of the project included the development of 154 properties. The scope also included the relocation of residents, demolition of structures and the construction of 1,500 temporary parking spaces to support the parking requirement for waterfront the entertainment center, now known as Susquehanna Bank Center. On October 3, 2006, the Members of the ERB approved an increase to the amount of the recoverable grant from $3,910,500 to $5,000,000 to support an increase in acquisition, relocation and demolition costs. To date, $3,749,498 in ERB funds has been advanced to CRA. Due to staffing shortages and disputes over the value of certain properties, CRA is still in the process of completing all of the acquisitions. The term of the grant expired on November 4, 2009. CRA requested an extension of the grant term until November 30, 2010 to complete the acquisition of the remaining properties.

Qualified Municipality Capital and Economic Recovery Financial Plan

> Ms. Wallick stated pursuant to Section 45(d) of the Municipal Rehabilitation and Economic Recovery Act, the Camden Economic Recovery Board is required to submit to the Governor and the New Jersey Legislature a financial plan designed to implement the financing of proposed projects. The financial plan is to contain an enumeration of the bonds and the proposed amounts to be appropriated and expended as well as the amounts for which the Authority anticipates to obligate during the ensuing fiscal year.
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> Ms. Wallick provided a breakdown of projects approved and closed through July 2009 stating that to date, 93 projects have been approved totaling approximately $150 million in of investment leveraging $669 million in other public and private financing. Of the 93 approved projects, 2 are inactive and 86 have closed. Of the 86 closed projects, 46 projects are fully funded, 3 of which have been repaid and 2 are no longer active. The other 35 closed projects are in the process of requisitioning ERB funding.

Vice Chairman Jones requested comments from the Members.

Public Member Rosa Ramirez questioned if the Board had any funds remaining, and if it was appropriate for the public members of the ERB to seek a meeting with Governor Christie to discuss the future of the Board and Camden City. Vice Chairman Jones also questioned the future of the Board. Ms. Franzini stated that the ERB continues to be a functioning Board and that Camden remains a priority for the Governor and State agencies. Public Member William Hosey commented that he felt it would be appropriate for the public members of the Board to meet with the Governor at this time and asked if an official request for a meeting could be made. Ms. Franzini replied that she would talk with both the Mayor and the Governor's office about the Members' request to set up a meeting regarding both ERB issues and other local issues.

Vice Chairman Jones then requested comments from the Public.

Mr. Colandus "Kelly" Francis, as a representative of the Parkside Community and Business Development Partnership thanked the Board for their support over the years.

Mr. Francis then provided an update on the NAACP's Annual ACT-SO competition. He stated that 11 Camden high school students attended the national competition in Kansas City, MO. He also remarked that while the students did not win any medals at the national competition it was a wonderful opportunity for them to network with students from around the country; visit cultural sites in Kansas City and hear First Lady Michelle Obama speak.

There being no further business, on a motion by William Hosey, and seconded by Rosa Ramirez, 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 L Wallick

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