

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Camden Redevelopment Agency held its Monthly Caucus Meeting on Wednesday, October 4, 2017 Camden City Hall, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room, in Camden, New Jersey. Chairperson Marilyn Torres called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 PM. Board Clerk, Sulena Robinson-Rivera, called roll. Commissioner Bowman joined the meeting at 6:15pm.

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

**Absent:**

**Attendees:** Olivette Simpson, Mark Asselta, Sulena Robinson-Rivera, Johanna Conyer, and James Harveson

Ms. 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 Meetings-September 6 and 13, 2017

**Motion:** Ayes:

**Nays:** Abstentions:

**Comments:** There were no comments or questions.

### **Interim Executive Director's Report**

Date of Meeting- October 4, 2017

**Motion:** Ayes:

**Nays:** Abstentions:

**Comments:** Ms. Olivette Simpson, Interim Executive Director advised the Commissioners of three City Council Ordinances related to CRA actions including; the transfer of City Block 814, Lot 2 to CRA for redevelopment purposes associated with the Kroc Center in Cramer Hill and the City's acceptance of property transferred from the CRA for the 4<sup>th</sup> & Washington Street and 7<sup>th</sup> & Clinton Street Parks in Cooper Plaza and Lanning Square. There were no further comments or questions.

### **Redevelopment Project Presentation**

None.

### **Resolutions for Review and Action**

**10-11-17A Resolution Authorizing the Acceptance of Property Designated as Block 814 Lot 2 on the City of Camden Tax Map from the City of Camden in the Cramer Hill Redevelopment Area**

**Motion:** Ayes:

**Nays:** Abstentions:

**Comments:** There were no questions or comments.

**10-11-17B Resolution Authorizing a Professional Services Agreement with EnviroSure, Inc. to Conduct a Title Search, Legal Boundary Survey & Preliminary Assessment/ASTM Phase I Assessment on the City of Camden-owned Property Designated as Block 814 Lot 2 on the City of Camden Tax Map and Located in the Cramer Hill Redevelopment Area for an Amount Not Exceed \$9,800.00**

**Motion:** Ayes:

**Nays:** Abstentions:

**Comments:** There were no questions or comments.

**Resolutions for Review and Action (cont'd)**

**10-11-17C Resolution Authorizing a Professional Service Agreement with Environmental Resolutions, Inc. to Prepare a Preliminary Assessment and Site Investigation / Remedial Investigation Work Plan for Block 405 Lot 1 of the City of Camden Tax Map for an Amount Not to Exceed \$10,305.00**

**Motion:** Ayes:

**Nays:** Abstentions:

**Comments:** There were no questions or comments.

**10-11-17D Resolution Introducing and Approving for Submission to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services the Agency's Proposed Budget**

**Motion:** Ayes:

**Nays:** Abstentions:

**Comments:** There were no questions or comments.

**10-11-17E Resolution Authorizing the Amendment of Various Remediation, Planning, and Acquisition Grants from the Camden Economic Recovery Board to Extend the Term of Such Grants**

**Motion:** Ayes:

**Nays:** Abstentions:

**Comments:** Chairperson Torres asked whether the \$1.2 M is what CRA has on hand. Ms. Simpson confirmed, yes. There were no questions or comments.

**10-11-17F Resolution Authorizing an Amendment to a Grant to the Rowan University/Rutgers-Camden Board of Governors for the Preparation of a Housing Demand Study to Include Additional Survey Work for an amount not to exceed \$22,500.00**

**Motion:** Ayes:

**Nays:** Abstentions:

**Comments:** Commissioner Davis expressed unease and posed questions regarding availability of the NSP2 funds, CRA's interest in the perception of the City from outsiders, rather than, the perception of existing residents. Ms. Simpson explained that the NSP2 funds are restricted in terms of their use, and because this activity is a planning related function, the activity is within the eligible uses of NSP2 funds. She also remarked how important these reports are to CRA's work in better understanding the City's housing markets. Commissioner Leonard added this resolution is related to a previous board request to broaden the survey's participants to include current residents to which this resolution responds. Commissioner Davis asked how the survey would be administered. Ms. Simpson noted that residents will be able to complete the survey online or in person by hard copy. Commissioner Bowman stated his understanding of the action and asked whether his understanding is correct. Board Counsel confirmed. There were no questions or comments.

**10-11-17G Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Certain Property Designated on the Camden City Tax Map as Block 182, Lots 80 and 81; and Block 183, Lots 43 – 49 and Lot 50 Located in the Lanning Square Redevelopment Area to the City of Camden for Nominal Consideration**

**Motion:** Ayes:

**Nays:** Abstentions:

**Comments:** Commissioner Davis asked whether the 4<sup>th</sup> & Washington Street Park is one of the four parks the County announced will be improved. Ms. Simpson confirmed. Ms. Davis asked for clarity on Green Acres role in the project. Board Counsel explained. Commissioner Leonard noted benefits of a shared service agreement between the City and County. Commissioner Davis asked that CRA contact the project lead to determine their outreach to and the participation of the Lanning Square residents and community in the design or planned improvements for the park. Ms. Simpson confirmed that she would reach out to Coopers Ferry, who is contracted with the County for the park design. There were no questions or comments.

**Resolutions for Review and Action (cont'd)**

**10-11-17H Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Certain Property Known as WS Edmund, 69 So. Clinton and Designated on the Camden City Tax Map as Block 1424, Lot 27 in the Cooper Plaza Redevelopment Area to the City of Camden for Nominal Consideration**

**Motion:** Ayes:

**Nays:** Abstentions:

**Comments:** There were no questions or comments

**Public Comments**

None.

**Old Business**

None.

**New Business**

A consortium including the City and County of Camden will be submitting a proposal to host the Amazon H2 headquarters. The request for proposal is dynamic and extremely prescriptive. The City of Camden has several attributes that are responsive to many of the requirements Amazon expressed in its request for proposal; including population size by metropolitan area, diversity and higher education opportunities, transportation assets, and proximity to the airport.

**Chairperson's Remarks and Observations**

Chairperson Torres invited all to participate on Sunday, October 8, 2017 from 8am to 8pm at Von Neida Park in the Cramer Hill neighborhood to collect nonperishable necessities and raise funds for the people of Puerto Rico devastated by Hurricane Maria.

**Executive Session**

None.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:41 PM on a motion made by Commissioner Sharma and seconded by Commissioner Leonard and affirmed via voice vote.