

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Camden Redevelopment Agency **held a Special Meeting on Tuesday, December 19, 2023** via tele-/videoconference.

Chairperson Ian Leonard called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM. Board Clerk Donna Arthur-Pettigrew called roll.

Present: Ian Leonard, Derek Davis, Christopher Collins, Maria Sharma, Tasha Gainey-Humphrey, and Jose Javier Ramos
Absent: Gilbert Harden, Sr.
Attendees: Olivette Simpson, Mark Asselta, Donna Arthur-Pettigrew, CRA, Jack Layne, DCA Monitor, Digesh Patel, Managing Director and Matthew Daly, Director, Mercadien, P.C.

Ms. Arthur-Pettigrew advised the Board that, pursuant to the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act, notice(s) had been posted in the Courier-Post, the Philadelphia Inquirer, and the Office of the City Clerk.

Review of Minutes

Date of Meeting: N/A

Motion: Ayes:

Nays: Abstentions:

Comments:

Interim Executive Director's Report

Date of Meeting: N/A

Motion: Ayes:

Nays: Abstentions:

Comments:

Redevelopment Project Presentations

None.

Resolutions for Review and Action

12-19-23A Resolution Accepting the Annual Audits of the City of Camden Redevelopment Agency For The Fiscal Years Ending December 31, 2022 and December 31, 2021 , as Prepared by Mercadien, P.C.

Motion: MS, TGH **Ayes:** IL, MS, DD, CC, TGH, JJR

Nays: Abstentions:

Comments: Ms. Simpson introduced Digesh Patel and Matthew Daly, principals of Mercadien, PC, attending the Meeting to present the audit results for FYE December 31, 2022 and December 31, 2021. Mr. Patel thanked the CRA for their assistance and cooperation during the Audit. He stated the firm's issuance of an unmodified opinion of the CRA's financial statements. He also stated a Finding was issued as the books and records were not closed out timely. Mr. Patel recommended updating the Agency's finance operations manuals to be consistent with current GAAP policies; updating end of year close out procedures; and evaluating/updating the current accounting system to better conform with current GAAP accounting. Mr. Patel stated the audit process was a team effort by the CRA's Executive Director, Finance Director and staff; and he enjoyed working with the Agency.

Resolutions for Review and Action cont'd

12-19-23B Resolution Certifying that Each Member of the City of Camden Redevelopment Agency Board of Commissioners Has Personally Reviewed the Fiscal Years Ending December 31, 2022 and December 31, 2021 Annual Audit Report

Motion: MS, TGH **Ayes:** IL, MS, DD, CC, TGH, JJR

Nays: **Abstentions:**

Comments: Ms. Simpson stated that the certifications by Board Commissioners are required for the Division of Local Government Services (DLGS). There were no other comments or questions.

12-19-23C Resolution Adopting the City of Camden Redevelopment Agency Budget for the Fiscal Year January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023

Motion: MS, JJR **Ayes:** IL, MS, DD, CC, TGH, JJR

Nays: **Abstentions:**

Comments: Ms. Simpson stated DLGS has accepted and approved CRA's Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2023 Budget for adoption. There were no other comments or questions.

12-19-23D Resolution Authorizing an Amendment to Resolution 04-12-23B for a Shared Services Agreement with the City of Camden for the Management of a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund Sub-Grant for the Environmental Remediation of the Former Reliable Tire Site Designated as Block 1302, Lot 1 of the City of Camden Tax Map

Motion: TGH, JJR **Ayes:** IL, DD, TGH, JJR

Nays: **Abstentions:** MS, CC

Comments: Mr. Asselta advised Commissioners Sharma and Collins to abstain from the vote due to a conflict. Ms. Simpson stated that this Resolution was added to Agenda for the board's consideration. CRA entered into a Shared Services Agreement with the City (for CRA on behalf of the City) to take actions associated with the remediation of the former Reliable Tire Site. This resolution is to amend the Agreement to reflect the increase in the CRA's US EPA sub-grant award to the City for these purposes. There were no other comments or questions.

12-19-23E Resolution Amending Resolution 04-12-23C to Authorize an Increase in a Sub-Grant from \$274,203.00 to \$500,000.00 to the City of Camden from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund for the Environmental Remediation of Block 1302, Lot 1 of the City of Camden Tax Map

Motion: DD, TGH **Ayes:** IL, DD, TGH, JJR

Nays: **Abstentions:** MS, CC

Comments: Ms. Simpson stated that due to lack of a voting quorum at the December Regular Meeting, this Resolution was added to the Special Meeting Agenda. Mr. Asselta also advised Commissioners Sharma and Collins to abstain from the vote due to conflict. There were no other comments or questions.

