

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Camden Redevelopment Agency **held the Monthly Caucus on Wednesday, March 2, 2022** via tele-/videoconference.

Chairperson Ian Leonard called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Interim Board Clerk Carla Rhodes called roll.

Present: Ian Leonard, Maria Sharma, Derek Davis, *Gilbert Harden, Sr., and Jose Javier Ramos

Absent: Marilyn Torres

Attendees: Olivette Simpson, Mark Asselta, Carla Rhodes, Donna Arthur-Pettigrew, and Sulena Robinson-Rivera, CRA; Jack Layne, DCA; Michele Christina, Principal, Brownfield Redevelopment Solutions, Inc.; Craig Sawyer and Trevor Vaughan, Urban Development Partners, LLC and William Silverstein of GEI Consultants

Ms. Rhodes 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: February 2 and February 9, 2022

Motion: Ayes:

Nays: Abstentions:

Comments: There were no comments or questions.

Interim Executive Director's Report

Date of Meeting: March 2, 2022

Comments: In addition to the written report Interim Executive Director Olivette Simpson provided prior to this meeting, she introduced Michele Christina of Brownfield Redevelopment Solutions, Inc. for a report of the Yaffa Dirt Pile Project and to provide supplemental information for the Board's consideration of five (5) companion Resolutions, relating to the Yaffa Project. Ms. Christina provided an overview of CRA's US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfield Revolving Loan Fund (RLF). She reported CRA received an initial award \$1.8 million to capitalize CRA's RLF. The RLF provides two (2) products that CRA utilizes to clean up contaminated sites in the City: loans for private entities and non-profit organizations as well as CRA for bridge financing and sub-grants for City and non-profit entities. CRA's RLF has been successfully used in the clean-up of several brownfield projects. As of March 18, 2022, EPA will be entertaining additional funding requests of prior grantees and CRA is eligible to apply for up to \$5 million in supplemental funds.

CRA is seeking Board action to authorize the approval of RLF sub-grant funds to conduct remediation activities at two project sites: Yaffa Dirt Pile Project and the Reliable Tire Site. The Yaffa Site is private property where two huge soil piles have been stockpiled illegally and are adversely impacting a residential neighborhood in Bergen Square. CRA, in keeping with Mayor Carstarphen's priorities to eradicate illegal dumping activities across the City, is working with the City to remove the imported stockpiled material at the Yaffa site and, once the soil has been removed, the site can be assessed and remediated of environmental contaminants. The Licensed Site Remediation Professional (LSRP) for the city-owned Reliable Tire Site has recommended the five (5) underground storage tanks (USTs) discovered at the site be removed and disposed of off-site in compliance with NJDEP requirements and to determine if any of the USTs have leaked.

Executive Session

None.

Chairperson's Remarks and Observations

None.

Adjournment

Ms. Sharma made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Jose Javier Ramos, and affirmed via Roll Call vote by all Commissioners. The meeting ended at approximately 6:46 PM.