

**NEW JERSEY URBAN ENTERPRISE ZONE AUTHORITY MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 2018  
EDA BOARDROOM, 2:15 P.M.  
36 WEST STATE STREET  
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY**

**MINUTES**

**Notice of Public Meeting:** Read by Chair Designee Maureen Hassett: In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, at least 48 hours' notice of this meeting was sent by way of the Secretary of State to the following newspapers: The Star Ledger, The Trenton Times, The Trentonian, The Courier Post, The Atlantic City Press, The Asbury Park Press, The Bergen Record, and The Home News

**The following recusal process will be followed at all UEZ Board meetings:**

- 1) To the extent feasible, meeting materials involving a matter from which a Board member must recuse himself or herself will not be distributed to the Board member.**
- 2) At the subject Board meeting, the Board member must place his or her recusal and the reason therefor on the record prior to any discussion of the matter and shall not participate in any discussion or comment leading up to the vote nor shall the member participate in the vote. The recusal shall be noted in the minutes of the Board meeting.**
- 3) In the event the matter in question shall be discussed at any non-public portion or executory session of the meeting, the Board member shall leave the meeting room and not return until the meeting has returned to public session.**

**Roll Call:** Maureen Hassett, Chair Designee; Sean Thompson, DCA Designee; Public Safety, Labor Commissioner Robert Asaro-Angelo, Julie Diaz, Labor Designee; Denise Harding, Treasury Designee; Eric Jaso, Public Member; and, Lewis Hurd, Public Member, (participated via teleconference). Additionally, Laura Draushak Deputy Attorney General and Gabriel Chacon, Deputy Attorney General of the Division of Law; and, Adam Sternbach, Governor's Authorities Unit,

**Approval of July 11, 2017 UEZ Authority Meeting minutes: MOTION TO APPROVE:**

Eric Jaso SECOND: Sean Thompson AYES: 6

NAYS: 0 RECUSALS: 0 ABSENTIONS: 0

Motion carried with a (3/0/0) vote.

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**New Business:**

**PROJECT:** 2017 UEZ Audit – Amend the existing auditing services contract with Mercadien.

**MOTION TO APPROVE:** Sean Thompson **SECOND:** Maureen Hassett

**AYES:** 4 **NAYS:** 0 **RECUSALS:** 0 **ABSENTIONS:** 0

Motion carried with a (4/0/0/0/4) vote

**AUTHORITY DISCUSSION:** Mr. Cirafici began by explaining that in 2016 the Board approved a 3-year auditing contract with Mercadien but the 3<sup>rd</sup> year the audit was not going to proceed due to the state contract rate changes in September 2017 before UEZ initiated the 3<sup>rd</sup> year PO therefore the contract needed to be amended to conform with the new rate table. Mercadien submitted its proposal to conform with those rates and the Audit Committee has reviewed and passed today.

Chair Hassett then explained how the state contract rates supersede the rates that were provided to the competitive bidding process and has been recommended to the full Board.

**PROJECT:** 2017 UEZ Audit – Amend the existing auditing services contract with Mercadien.

**MOTION TO APPROVE:** Eric Jaso **SECOND:** Sean Thompson

**AYES:** 6 **NAYS:** 0 **RECUSALS:** 0 **ABSENTIONS:** 0

Motion carried with a (6/0/0/0) vote

**AUTHORITY DISCUSSION:** NONE

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**OLD BUSINESS:**

**OTHER**

NONE

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Legislature is considering a bill (A3549/S846) to extend the UEZ program for those that are expiring before December 31, 2023 and to reinstate going forward the five (5) zones that expired December 2016, which are Newark, Plainfield, Trenton, Camden, and Bridgeton. The bill by its terms will be effective immediately and the UEZ staff is preparing to reach out to the 1,300 business that were Inactivated on 12/31/2016 and to promote the program as vigorously as we can to restore participation to previous levels.

The other element of the bill requires a study of the program and lays out certain specific aspects to include in the study with its report and recommendation due to the Legislature by the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the 12<sup>th</sup> month following enactment. The study will be paid for from UEZ funds. It is to be conducted by the Department of Community Affairs, which may engage to a university or consulting firm.

Commissioner Asaro-Angelo raised a question regarding the funding of the study asked for clarification on the funding of the study coming from the UEZ resources, asking also how the study would operate, and, given that budgets are zeroed out at the end of a fiscal year, will that come out of some sort of operating budget? Mr. Cirafici explained that the UEZ has been operating under a line item budget for the last half dozen years. In the proposed FY2019 budget has \$1,350,000 for operations. For the last three or four years UEZ has returned about \$300,000 to \$500,000 annually to Treasury so there could be enough adequate funds but if not perhaps there might be a supplement. There may be encumbered funds asset aside previously for such a study but is not sure how that would exactly work. Ms. Hassett stated that there was an exhaustive study completed a number of years ago with a lot of data and it took a lot of time and effort to pull that data together so there would at least be a baseline to start from that is not that old, and which would be helpful in the long run.

**ADJOURNMENT:** 2:30pm

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** Eric Jaso   **SECOND:** Maureen Hassett   **AYES:** 6

**NAYS:** 0   **RECUSALS:** 0   **ABSENTIONS:** 0

Motion carried with a (6/0/0/0) vote

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I, Ebony McNeill \_\_\_\_\_ taken at the July 12, 2017  
Urban Enterprise Zone Authority Meeting