



State of New Jersey
URBAN ENTERPRISE ZONE AUTHORITY
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PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

LT. GOVERNOR SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Commissioner

January 23, 2019

UEZ Authority Board Meeting Minutes

Notice of Public Meeting: Read by Chair Designee Danielle Esser: 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:

Voting members present: Danielle Esser (Chair Designee), Geraldine Callahan (DCA Designee), Denise Harding (Treasury Designee), Julie Diaz (Labor Designee), participated in person while; Lewis Hurd (Public Member) and Eric Jaso (Public Member) participated via teleconference.

Also present: Tracy Fredericks (UEZ Executive Director), Ebony McNeill (UEZ Administrative Assistant), Laura Drahushak (Deputy Attorney General), and Adam Sternbach, (Governor's Authorities' Unit)

Approval of April 11, 2018 UEZ Authority meeting minutes:

Motion to Approve: Lewis Hurd

Seconded: Eric Jaso

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

Recusals: 0

Abstentions: 2 (Geraldine Callahan & Danielle Esser)

Authority Discussion: Clarification on this topic was issued by DAG Drahushak is that even though some individuals were not present for the last meeting they can approve the minutes if they have done their due diligence and spoken to someone who was at the prior meeting.

Motion carried with a vote of (4/0/0/2).

New Business:

1. Introduction of UEZ Executive Director:

Executive Director shared that she was happy to be a part of the team and looking forward to meeting each member in person.

II. 2018 Urban Enterprise Zone Authority Meeting Calendar Approval

Motion to Approve: Eric Jaso

Second: Lewis Hurd

Ayes: 6

Nayes: 0

Recusals: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motions carried with a vote of (6/0/0/0).

Authority Discussion: None

III. Approval of the allocation of UEZ Study funds

Motion to Approve: Julie Diaz

Second: Eric Jaso

Ayes: 6

Nayes: 0

Recusals: 0

Abstentions: 0

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

Authority Discussion: Chair Esser updated the Board regarding the Legislation that was passed late last year which required the Department of Community Affairs to conduct a study of the Urban Enterprise Program. “This is to approve the study by Thomas Edison State College for \$155,223.” Director Fredericks added clarification regarding the Study, “DCA issued the RFP on November 9, 2018 responses were due by December 17, 2018. DCA received one response from John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy at Thomas Edison State University. With them are two sub-contractors PEL Analytics and the Anderson Economic Group.

The committee reviewed the submissions, recommended approval, and the Lt. Governor approved and awarded the contract. A letter of intent was sent out Friday, January 18, 2018 but has not yet been finalized. According to the UEZ statute, DCA was responsible for issuing the RFP and the UEZA is responsible for approving the funding.”

Question asked by public member Lewis Hurd what the objective of the survey is and the tentative conclusion date. Chair Esser referenced the statute in the legislation the public pamphlet law from 2018, the legislation had a new section that was added and the UEZ statute said that said “The Department of Community Affairs shall study the Urban Enterprise Zone Program and submit to the legislature a report and recommendations as to whether the program should continue as is, be amended or expire. The Department may enter into an agreement with a third party including but not limited to a public institution of higher education in the State or an independent consulting firm to conduct the study and prepare the report.” The study is meant to analyze the scope of the program and if any changes need to be made.

Public Member Eric Jaso asked if any such survey and report had ever been done for the UEZ before. DAG Draushak mentioned there was in fact a prior study conducted in 2010 to analyze the effectiveness of the program and its recommendation was to re-appropriate the funding.

Public Member Hurd asked if the study is being conducted as the program is today or when the program was more active 3 or 4 years ago, Director Fredericks informed the Study will focus on the program up until 2019.

Chair Esser then went into more detail regarding the study with the outcome that the UEZ shall fund the cost of conducting the study and preparing the report from the account maintained in the name of the Authority of the Urban Enterprise Zone Assistance Fund.

Public Member Jaso mentioned the timeframe question raised by Mr. Hurd wasn’t answered and asked about the timeline. Director Fredericks stated that the original survey/audit should be completed in May but would not happen since the vendor was just selected. She stated that it could take up to six months. It is hoped that the end of the summer the study shall be complete.

Resolution passed.

Old Business

I. Other

None

II. Open to the Public

None

III. Adjournment: 3:21 pm

Motion to Adjourn: Gerri Callahan

Second: Julie Diaz

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Recusals: 0

Abstentions: 0

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

Ebony McNeill

I, Ebony McNeill taken at the January 23, 2019
Urban Enterprise Zone Authority Meeting