NEW JERSEY URBAN ENTERPRISE ZONE
AUTHORITY MEETING
Wednesday, July 14, 2021
2:00 P.M.
Microsoft Teams or call in (audio only)
1(856)338-7074
Phone Conference ID: 131 667 394#

MINUTES

Notice of Public Meeting: Read by Chairperson, Tai Cooper: In accordance with the
Open Public Meeting Act, notice of this meeting has been sent to the Star Ledger
and the Trenton Times at least 48 hours prior to this meeting, and a meeting notice
has been posted on the Secretary of State’s bulletin board at the Department of State.

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: Tai Cooper, New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA), Chair
Designee, Julie Diaz, The Department of Labor & Workforce Development Designee,
Denise Harding, The Department of the Treasury Designee, and Sean Thompson,
Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Designee.
Approval of July 14, 2021, UEZ Authority meeting minutes:
Motions:
Approve: Sean Thompson
Second: Julie Diaz
Ayes: 4
Noes: 0
Recusals: 0
Abstentions: 0

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

Executive Director’s Report

Executive Director, Tracy Fredericks informed the Board that the Assembly and the Senate passed the UEZ bill (A5580/S3600). She stated that DCA /UEZ is waiting for Governor Murphy to sign the bill. His office indicates that he will do so as soon as his schedule allows. Executive Director Fredericks stated that in the meantime, staff can move forward with the work to implement the revised bill.

Additionally, Executive Director Fredericks stated that at the next UEZA meeting in October, staff from the Governor’s office and DCA will be present to discuss the process they undertook to get the bill passed. In the meantime, the Board was asked to read the reformed bill and prepare questions for the October meeting.

Executive Director Fredericks communicated the following highlights from the bill:

- There will be an initial $42.5 million Zone Assistant Fund (ZAF) appropriation from the General Fund to support the program.
- The total ZAF funding is capped at $82.5 million (it increases annually in line with the CPI).
- There is a 25% cap on ZAFs that can be used for public safety expenses (i.e., police and fire).
- Zones are required to list their ZAFs in the budget of their local municipality (even if a separate CEDC manages the UEZ program), which will be monitored by the UEZA and the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Division of Local Government Services (LGS).
- There is a 10-year limit on UEZ business certifications. After ten years, those businesses who fall under that category will no longer be able to certify.
- The business to business sales tax exemption was capped at the first $100,000 of purchases.
- The State Treasurer must provide the UEZA an annual report of the aggregate amount, expressed in dollars, of the incentives provided under the UEZ program to qualified businesses and municipalities.
- There will be a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the UEZA and the Department of Labor and Workforce Development that assist in data gathering and information sharing between the two agencies to further the
UEZA’s ability to evaluate enterprise zone performance, compliance and to initiate enforcement actions as applicable.

- There is a new process for zone development plans which would have a five-year life. UEZs that have a zone development plan in place that is older than five years must update their plans, and have it approved by the UEZA.
- We will be revamping the program’s rules/regulations. This process can take a minimum of six months.
- The UEZ division will be restructured to accommodate the revised bill/program.
- The UEZA will have more responsibility moving forward. We expect the board to begin to meet once a month starting in 2022.

New Business:

The 2018 and 2019 UEZ Audit was presented by Mercadien’s Auditor, Digesh Patel for review and approval by the Board:

**2018 Audit**

Motions:
Approve: Sean Thompson
Second: Julie Diaz
Ayes: 4
Noes: 0
Recusals: 0
Abstentions: 0
Motion carried with a vote (4/0/0/0).

**2019 Audit**

Motions:
Approve: Julie Diaz
Second: Sean Thompson
Ayes: 4
Noes: 0
Recusals: 0
Abstentions: 0
Motion carried with a vote (4/0/0/0).

Old Business:

Other

None

Open to the public

None
Adjournment: 2:24 pm
Motions:
Adjourn: Denise Harding
Second: Julie Diaz
Ayes: 4
Noes: 0
Recusals: 0
Abstentions: 0
Motion carried with a vote (4/0/0/0).

Ebony McNeill
I, Ebony McNeill taken at the July 14, 2021
Urban Enterprise Zone Authority Meeting