



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

LT. GOVERNOR SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Commissioner

**NEW JERSEY URBAN ENTERPRISE ZONE
AUTHORITY MEETING**

Wednesday, May 11, 2022
2:00 P.M.

Microsoft Teams or call in (audio only)
1(856)338-7074
Phone Conference ID:190 562 768#

MINUTES

Notice of Public Meeting: Read by Chairperson, Sean Thompson: **In accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act, notice of this meeting has been sent to the Bergen Record 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: Sean Thompson, Department of Community Affairs Chair Designee, Julie Diaz, The Department of Labor & Workforce Development Designee, Aaron Binder, The Department of the Treasury Designee, Leslie Anderson, New Jersey Redevelopment Authority (NJRA), President and CEO and Tai Cooper, New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) Designee.

Approval of December 8, 2021, UEZ Authority meeting minutes:

Motions:

Approve: Leslie Anderson

Second: Tai Cooper

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Recusals: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion carried with a vote (5/0/0/0).

Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director shared that she hired two new staff members, Mr. Joe Fusco, as the Financial Administrative Analyst, and Ms. Rita Webber, as Business Certification Representative. In addition, Mr. James Simmons was promoted to Assistant Director of Program Operations, and Ms. Joyce Zayas is now Project Leader.

The Director also shared that because of the COVID 19 pandemic, local UEZs have not been able to request permission from the UEZA to begin the RFP process and hire a consultant to assist in creating the five-year plan mandated by the new law. In response to this need, the law allows financial resources to be distributed due to health-related emergencies. Hence, the staff put the eight items on the agenda for the UEZA vote instead of the five-year plan.

It was shared that five-year plans are expected to begin in FY 2023 and can take between four to eight months to complete.

NEW BUSINESS

I. Request to approve Camden's UEZ Administrative Budget FY2022 for \$67,430.

Motions:

Approve: Leslie Anderson

Second: Julie Diaz

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Recusals: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion carried with a vote (5/0/0/0).

Camden's coordinator Joe Thomas was present during the meeting to address questions; there were none. Mr. Thomas thanked the staff and the UEZA for their support.

II. Request to approve UEZ Jersey City's Administrative Budget FY2022 for \$394,593.

Motions:

Approve: Tai Cooper

Second: Leslie Anderson

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Recusals: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion carried with a vote (5/0/0/0).

Jersey City's coordinator Florence Baron was present during the meeting to address questions; there were none. Ms. Baron thanked the staff and the UEZA for their support.

III. Request to approve Jersey City's UEZ Off Duty Police Program Budget for \$986,481.

Motions:

Approve: Julie Diaz

Second: Aaron Binder

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Recusals: 0

Abstentions: 1

Motion carried with a vote (4/0/0/1).

During the meeting, Jersey City's coordinator Florence Baron was present to address questions.

The UEZ staff made this request with conditional approval. The staff recommended that the proposal include the following conditions of license. "The Jersey City Economic Development define in writing the meaning of an emergency and the process for how long it would take if an emergency arose to reassign police officers back to their assignments."

Coordinator Baron responded: "Based on experience, an *emergency* would be an active shooter, and if they have situations like that where they would have to call in more precincts, more departments to handle the crisis would be available."

Board member Aaron Binder asked, "Is there more detail on the number of hours and just what does this pay for because it's a little under \$1,000,000 for a hundred officers?"

Coordinator Baron responded: "The actual hourly rate is not available but based on the average cost per officer per shift, it will be \$500, and average shifts are 8 hours. That averages out to \$62.50 an hour for the off-duty officers, and it'll be approximately 1940 shifts a year."

Board member Anderson voiced her concern about using UEZ resources to support police programs. Executive Director Fredericks responded that the law allows such expenditures.

Executive Director Fredericks requested that if Coordinator Barron were willing to submit this information in writing, she would be comfortable providing a recommendation to the UEZA to approve this request. Coordinator Barron agreed to do so.

IV. Request to approve Kearny's Administrative Budget FY2022 for \$45,000.

Motions:

Approve: Aaron Binder

Second: Tai Cooper

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Recusals: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion carried with a vote (5/0/0/0).

Kearny's coordinator John Peneda was present during the meeting to address questions; there were none. Mr. Peneda thanked the staff and the UEZA for their support.

V. Request to approve the Lakewood Downtown District Compactors Project for \$250,000.

Motions:

Approve: Leslie Anderson

Second: Aaron Binder

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Recusals: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion carried with a vote (5/0/0/0).

Lakewood's coordinator David Klein was present during the meeting to address; there were none. Mr. Klein thanked the staff and the UEZA for their support.

VI. Request to approve Vineland's UEZ Administrative Budget FY2022 for \$98,298.

Motions:

Approve: Leslie Anderson

Second: Julie Diaz

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0
Recusals: 0
Abstentions: 0

Motion carried with a vote (5/0/0/0).

Vineland's coordinator Sandra Forosisky was present during the meeting to address any; there were none. Ms. Forosisky thanked the staff and the UEZA for their support.

VII. Request to approve North Wildwood's Boardwalk Public Address System (PA) Repairs & Upgrades for \$34,097

Motions:
Approve: Leslie Anderson
Second: Aaron Binder
Ayes: 5
Noes: 0
Recusals: 0
Abstentions: 0

Motion carried with a vote (5/0/0/0).

North Wildwood's coordinator Steeve Booy was present during the meeting to address any; there were none. Mr. Booy thanked the staff and the UEZA for their support.

VIII. Request to approve Wildwood's Boardwalk Public Address System (PA) for \$34,097.

Motions:
Approve: Aaron Binder
Second: Julie Diaz
Ayes: 5
Noes: 0
Recusals: 0
Abstentions: 0

Motion carried with a vote (5/0/0/0).

Wildwood's coordinator Steeve Booy was present during the meeting to address any questions; there were none. Mr. Booy thanked the staff and the UEZA for their support.

Old Business:

Other

None

Open to the public

None

Adjournment: 2:47 pm

Motions:

Adjourn: Leslie Anderson

Second: Aaron Binder

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Recusals: 0

Abstentions: 0

Motion carried with a vote (5/0/0/0).

Ebony McNeill

I, Ebony McNeill taken at the May 11, 2022

Urban Enterprise Zone Authority Meeting

Attachments: Jersey City Follow-up Questions Posed