

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

January 13, 2021

The Richmond Economic Development Commission's monthly meeting convened at 11:30 AM on January 13, 2020, over a publicly accessible Zoom meeting.

Call to Order 11:35 PM by Acting Chair, Ayoka Nurse

1. **Roll Call:**

A quorum was present with commission members A. Nurse (Vice-Chair), T. Brown, J. Lee, A. Shields, D. Wear, A. Perroy, R. Yazdi and O. Willis

2. **Absent:**

A. Delgado, Q. Riley, and V. Wong

3. **Staff:**

Gabino Arredondo, Thomas Omolo, Samantha Carr, and Shasa Curl

4. **Council Liaison:**

Demnlus Johnson III

5. **Guest:**

6. **Minutes:**

1st – A. Shields, 2nd – D. Wear, and Unanimous Approval

7. **Presentation:**

- Gabino Arredondo – Reviewed four questions provided by HR&A Advisors. Commissioners voiced their opinion for HR&A to concentrate on COVID-19 relief, primarily; technical assistance to complete the applications, a document that explains what a business need and should expect when applying for COVID-19 relief, concentrate on helping Richmond businesses, create a list of considerations when deciding whether to stay open, reduce hours or close, improve decimation of material to Richmond businesses, and increase usage of listserve to distribute information. The video from the meeting will be shared with HR&A.
- Commissioner discussed the process for electing a new Economic Development Chair. Commissioners will send Gabino their nominations or their desire to be nominated as Chair. Interested commissioner can share their desires for being chair to Gabino in an email which will be shared with all commissioners.

8. **Committee Reports:**

- Cannabis Subcommittee – Ayoka met with City staff to discuss the next steps for a Cannabis Equity Ordinance. After the meeting, it was determined that the best next step would be to apply for GO-Biz Type-1 Equity Cannabis Funding to do an Equity Assessment in Richmond. The

Equity Assessment will provide vital information in creating an equity ordinance that is tailored for Richmond. Ayoka also contacted some people from Policy Link to explore options for addressing gaps currently in Richmond's cannabis industry.

- Community Engagement – Fold the work into HR&A. Once we get to the next steps, the Environmental Action Plan will engage in its community engagement goals. It will be phased in with HR&A.
- Taste of Richmond – The City has sent RPAL an addendum of the Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement to extend the terms till January 1, 2022. Discussed the possibility of moving the event to another location, which will be assessed more when the county allows for group gatherings.
- Policy – Orian Willis and Ayoka have discussed a workforce development plan and compared San Francisco's best practices to Richmond's programs. See what programs the City can do differently, such as incentive programs. A landscape analysis to identify large employers, where the businesses are struggling, how can workforce development programs shore up the shortcomings and work with workforce development and local education entities to attract more businesses to Richmond.

9. **Report from City Council:**

10. **Staff Reports:**

Gina Baker – The minimum wage ordinance was implemented in 2017; it was updated in October to increase the minimum wage for 2021 to \$15.21. Other than the increase, there have been no changes to the ordinance.

Thomas Omolo – Provided an additional update on the status of the Surplus Land Act and next steps. The Richmond City Council approved the list of Surplus Properties and Exempt Surplus Properties. The next steps include completing a Notice of Availability, creating a Surplus website, and submitting NOA's to California Housing and Community Development Corporation.

Dominique Green – Shared an overview of the Small Business Ad Hoc Group and items discussed by this group, will highlight local businesses on the Mayor's Social media pages,

11. **Public Comments/Announcements/Handouts Presentation:**

12. **Next meeting:** 2/10/2020

13. **Adjournment:** 1:00 P.M.