

# MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

October 14, 2020

Monthly meeting of the Richmond Economic Development Commission convened at 11:30 AM on March 11, 2020 in the Richmond Room located at 450 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond CA.

Call to Order 11:35 p.m. by Chair, Abayomi Jones

1. **Roll Call:**

A quorum was present with commission members A. Jones (Chair), A. Nurse, A. Delgado, A. Perroy, G. Swelle-Murphy, D. Wear, J. Lee, O. Willis, T. Brown, and V. Wong.

2. **Absent:**

A. Agarwal, A. Shields, J. Lee, , B. Spears, and P. Stern

3. **Staff:**

Gabino Arredondo, Thomas Omolo, and Shasa Curl

4. **Council Liaison:**

Demnlus Johnson III

5. **Guest:**

Khalil Ferguson

6. **Minutes:**

No minutes present.

7. **Presentation:**

**Shasa Curl, Economic Development Action Plan** – Shasa Curl and Thomas Omolo gave a presentation and answered commissioners question regarding the contract with HR&A Advisor to create a Short Term Local Business Recovery Action Plan and a Business and Investment Attraction Strategy. Commissioners voiced their displeasure that commissioners were not involved in the selection of a firm to create the plans. Staff informed commissioners that HR&A will engage the EDC in the creation of Plan and the review and creation of a Cannabis Equity Program.

**Shasa Curl, CMO, Economic Development** – Richmond Economic Development Update Q-1. Presentation to the EDC discussing the economic state of Richmond including reviewing current unemployment claims in Richmond, developments in Richmond, economic development accomplishments and community updates.

**Khalil Ferguson, United CORE Alliance** - Khalil Ferguson gave a presentation on the Cannabis Equity program in Sacramento. The presentation reviewed CORE program eligibility, the benefits and reimbursement strategy.

**8. Committee Reports:**

- Cannabis Subcommittee – Yielded time to Khalil Ferguson for presentation
- Community Engagement – Questions and concerns raised answered during Economic Development Action Plan presentation
- Taste of Richmond – No new updates
- Policy – Yielded time to Khalil Ferguson for presentation

**9. Report from City Council:**

Introduced the contract with HR&A Advisors, Inc to provide technical assistance to complete and Economic Development Action Plan..

**10. Staff Reports:**

Shasa Curl – Notified commissioners that the San Francisco Business Times' Richmond Supplement was printed, distributed to SFBT subscribers and can be found online.

Thomas Omolo – Updated commissioners that City Staff will begin working on creating a one page Opening a Business Page. This page would give prospective businesses a one pager to understand the process of starting a business in Richmond.

Thomas Omolo – Gave an update to commissioners on the Manufacturing Day Event on October 9, 2020.

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

- Guest C. Hindler announced search for additional younger commissioners

**12. Next meeting:** 11/11/2020 (Veterans Day)

**13. Adjournment:** 1:34p.m.