

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE
ERIE COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

MEETING: December 10, 2020, at Erie County Industrial Development Agency (the “ECIDA” or “Agency”), meeting held via phone conference. Governor Cuomo’s Executive Order 202.1, as amended from time to time, issued in response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis, suspended Article 7 of the Public Officers Law to the extent necessary to permit any public body to take actions without permitting in public in-person access to such meetings and authorized such meetings to be held remotely by conference call or other similar service, provided the public has the ability to view or listen to such proceedings and that the meeting is recorded and transcribed.

LIVE STREAMED: This meeting is being live-audio streamed and made accessible on the Agency’s website at www.ecidany.com.

PRESENT: Denise Abbott; Hon. April Baskin; Hon. William Krebs; Richard Lipsitz; Brenda W. McDuffie; Laura Smith; David State; Lavon Stephens and Maria Whyte

EXCUSED: Rev. Mark E. Blue; Hon. Bryon W. Brown; Johanna Coleman; Colleen DiPirro; Richard Cummings and Glenn R. Nellis;

OTHERS PRESENT: John Cappellino, President & CEO; Mollie Profic, Chief Financial Officer; Atiqa Abidi, Assistant Treasurer; Karen M. Fiala, Vice President/Secretary; Grant Lesswing, Business Development Officer; Brian Krygier, Systems Analyst; Carrie Hocieniec, Administrative Coordinator; Laurie Hendrix, Administrative Coordinator; and Robert G. Murray, Esq., General Counsel/Harris Beach PLLC

GUESTS: Andrew Federick, Erie County Senior Economic Development Specialist; and Lisa Hicks on behalf of the City of Buffalo

There being a quorum present at 11:11 a.m., the Meeting of the Special Policy Committee was called to order by Mr. Lipsitz.

GUEST PRESENTATION

Ms. Smith gave a report to committee members on the Buffalo Niagara Partnership’s recently completed assessment study entitled: “*Employing Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in WNY*”:

2020 Western New York Diversity & Inclusion Business Community Assessment”. General discussion ensued.

At this time, Mr. State and Ms. McDuffie left the meeting.

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF POLICY FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT

Workforce Utilization – Onondaga County IDA (“OCIDA”) Example. Mr. Murray reviewed the Onondaga County Industrial Development Agency’s most recently revised Uniform Tax Exemption Policy, revised in September of 2020, which now includes several real property tax abatement (PILOT) schedules containing increased abatement percentages that can be obtained provided a company reaches certain minority and women hiring goals.

General discussion ensued.

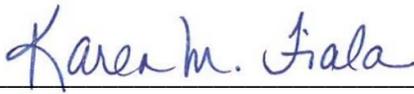
Ms. Whyte suggested that the ECIDA consider establishing a minimum PILOT requirement to obtain a baseline level of incentive, but if a company desires to obtain additional PILOT incentive, it can do so provided it agrees/consents to provide additional monitoring/materials to then obtain more incentive/abatement.

Mr. Lipsitz asked if ECIDA staff could prepare a draft framework/process related to increasing PILOT abatements based upon minority and woman hiring to allow the discussion amongst Policy Committee members to continue.

Mr. Cappellino suggested ECIDA should think about sharing ideas and concepts with other IDAs in Erie County, and also suggested that Erie County businesses be consulted so that ECIDA can begin to understand issues and processes and challenges businesses may face in attempts to meet a new ECIDA enhanced incentive policy.

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Lipsitz adjourned the meeting at 12:48 p.m.

Dated: December 10, 2020



Karen M. Fiala, Secretary