

RHODE ISLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MAKE IT EASIER TO DO BUSINESS SUBCOMMITTEE

PUBLIC SESSION

FEBRUARY 27, 2012

The Make It Easier to Do Business Subcommittee of the Board of Directors of the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation (the "Corporation") met on Monday, February 27, 2012, in Public Session, beginning at 3:00 p.m., at the offices of the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation located at 315 Iron Horse Way, Providence, Rhode Island, pursuant to notice of the meeting to all subcommittee members, and public notice of the meeting, a copy of which is attached hereto, as required by the By-Laws of the Corporation and applicable Rhode Island law.

The following individuals were present and participated throughout the meeting as indicated: Mr. Karl Wadensten (Chair), Mr. Ron Cagnilia, Mr. Gary Ezovski, Mr. Henry Kates, Mr. Paul McGreevy, Ms. Leslie Taito, Ms. Sherri Carrera, Mr. Michael Walker, Ms. Nora Eshkhanian and Ms. Amelia Allard.

Mr. Wadensten called the meeting to order at 3:18 p.m.

Members of the subcommittee approved the minutes of the prior subcommittee meeting. Ms. Taito reported that the Office of Regulatory Reform ("ORR") has been involved in community forums with the Governor and Corporation staff, which have spurred conversations and follow-up calls requesting assistance. She stated that the ORR is encouraging pre-application meetings, which are being scheduled regularly. It was reported that ORR would like alert leadership of certain trade organizations and receive feedback from such organizations on new regulations as they are promulgated. It was additionally noted that the ORR website now includes a direct link to the Secretary of State's Rules Tracker. It was reported that Ms. Eshkhanian is researching current regulations and matching such regulations with associated bulletins and guidance. Ms. Taito proposed that any regulation with three or more associated bulletins or guidance be immediately reviewed for clarity. Mr. McGreevy stated that the Department of Business Regulations often issues bulletins that are not associated with a specific regulation and that there may already be best practices in place to address this issue. Mr. Ezovski noted that this level of input would be ideal when the regulation process begins.

Ms. Carrera explained, and subcommittee members discussed, pending legislation that addresses statewide regulatory reform. Mr. Ezovski also brought several bills introduced in response to the recent U.S. Small Business Administration ("SBA") Rhode Island Economic Summit to the subcommittee's attention. He further reported that other issues mentioned in response to the SBA Summit included: Rhode Island's healthcare mandate refurbishment; legal holiday status of Victory Day; minimum hours

payments; minority- and woman-owned business self-certification; zoning; construction; and apprenticeship.

Ms. Taito questioned whether there was utility in surveying various industries to bring in real-time data. Mr. McGreevy stated that he would like a broad screening survey to determine the level of interest in certain workshops and to determine what issues are important to individual industries. Mr. Wadensten questioned how the data would be used and compiled, as well as noting the need for a useable database. Mr. McGreevy suggested that Bryant University could potentially provide such a database and members of the subcommittee agreed to discuss this topic further once they had additional information.

Ms. Taito reported that she met with the City of Providence and the Town of North Kingstown to learn about their processes and the technology used in building permitting. Ms. Taito stated that the goal is to compare a selection of cities and towns and examine their procedures and processes to determine best practices. She noted that North Kingstown's process is "very forward-thinking, very progressive". Mr. Wadensten suggested that the subcommittee meet with representatives from North Kingstown to learn about their processes first-hand.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:47 p.m.