

**EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2023
4:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Joseph J. Minuta, Chairman
Thomas J. Faggione, James O'Donnell,
Genesis Ramos, Paul Ruskiewicz,

ALSO

PRESENT: Katherine E. Bonelli, Chairwoman
Michael D. Paduch, Minority Leader
Betsy N. Abraham, Esq., Legislative Counsel
Kerry Gallagher, Commissioner of Finance
Alison Tyack, Deputy Commissioner, Human Resources
Denise Cross, Director of Personnel Management, Human Resources
Steven M. Gross, Director, Office of Economic Development
Amanda Dana, Tourism Director
Rachel Carr, Tourism Coordinator
Lisa Santiago, Tourism Assistant
Nora Martinez, Film Specialist, Tourism
Bill Fioravanti, CEO, Orange County Industrial Development Agency
Paul G. Martland, Vice President of Admin./Finance, Orange County Community College
Dina Sena, Budget Analyst
Jeffrey D. Crist, IDA/OCFC Candidate

Chairman Minuta opened the committee meeting at 4:00 p.m. by asking everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. All committee members were present with the exception of Legislators Luján, Sassi and Stegenga who were absent.

Chairman Minuta changed the order of the agenda and requested that the appointment to the Industrial Development Agency and Orange County Funding Corporation be addressed first.

Chairwoman Bonelli pointed out that Mr. Crist was the Chairman of the Town of Montgomery Industrial Agency, but he submitted his resignation so that he can join the Orange County IDA. She stated that she, along with Ms. Abraham, Mr. Ruskiewicz and Mr. Minuta, interviewed Mr. Crist and they are in agreement that his enthusiasm and interest in the IDA make him a perfect fit. His experience and involvement in the community speak for itself.

Mr. Faggione made the motion to appoint Jeffrey D. Crist to the Industrial Development Agency (IDA) and the Orange County Funding Corporation (OCFC), seconded by Mr. Ruskiewicz.

Mr. Crist thanked Chairwoman Bonelli, Ms. Abraham, Mr. Ruskiewicz and Mr. Minuta for the opportunity noting that it was a very professional process. He put a lot of thought into his departure from the Town of Montgomery IDA because he wanted to remain respectful and leave it in a solid position. He discussed this with all the board members and the Town of Montgomery IDA is in a solid position going forward. His interest is beyond the Town of Montgomery, and he would like to give back to county residents. He thanked the committee for their consideration.

Mr. Minuta mentioned that he was not able to participate in the interview for Mr. Crist but noted his impressive resume that he thoroughly reviewed.

Mr. Ruskiewicz commented that he has known Mr. Crist and his family for a long time and the many contributions he has made to economic development, not only in Montgomery but throughout the county. He wholeheartedly supported the appointment of Mr. Crist.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Faggione moved the request to create ten (10) part-time Campus Security Guard positions to adequately staff the college campuses with security guards, seconded by Ms. Ramos.

Mr. Martland explained that they had a certain number of security guards, many who worked over twenty hours a week. It was discovered that part-time employees are limited to nineteen hours a week. In order to have enough coverage at both campuses, they need to increase the number of positions that we have assigned to us. The total number of security hours has not changed, it will be spread over more positions.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Dana provided a quarterly update on Tourism and Film (On file in Clerk, Legislative Office).

On the motion of Ms. Ramos, seconded by Mr. Ruskiewicz, the meeting adjourned at 4:33 p.m.