

**BLUE RIBBON EQUITABLE TASK FORCE  
ACTION MINUTES - THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2021**

Meeting was called to order at 6:06 pm by Chuck Maurer.

**1. Roll Call:** Takata-Vasquez, Larsen, Katz, Ortega, Swafford, Williams, and Wanzo were present. Board Member Oke and Fike arrived at 6:10 pm. Board Member Kwamilele arrived at 6:20 pm. Board Member Tsai was absent.

**2. Public Comment**

None.

**3. Approval of Draft Minutes of September 2 and September 16, 2021, Meetings**

*Vice-Chair Larsen moved, seconded by Chair Takata-Vasquez to approve the September 2 and September 16, 2021, meetings as presented.*

*Board polled as follows: Takata-Vasquez, Larsen, Katz, Oke, Ortega, Swafford, Wanzo, and Fike voted “aye.” Williams abstained. Motion carried.*

**4. Resolution to Continue Teleconference Meetings**

Mitesh Bhakta, Deputy City Attorney advised the item was on the agenda per his request. He advised that the state’s ordinance ended at midnight September 30<sup>th</sup> and the city was having all of the boards voting on the resolution so they could continue meeting via teleconference.

*Board Member Oke moved, seconded by Chair Takata-Vasquez to approve the resolution for the continuation of teleconference Meetings.*

*Board polled as follows: Takata-Vasquez, Larsen, Katz, Oke, Ortega, Swafford, Williams, Wanzo and Fike voted “aye.” Motion carried.*

**5. Staff Updates**

**A. Proposed Revised Master Calendar (special meetings in October)**

Huey Dang, Staff, advised the calendar being proposed would allow for three special meetings to allow enough time for staff to prepare the report for Council. He reviewed what would need to take place at each meeting to be able to meet the time frame.

Margaret O’Brien, Revenue and Tax Administrator, noted the report would be published to the Council and public by the October 31<sup>st</sup> date. It would be presented at either a November or December Council meeting.

Discussion held concerning how they did not have to hold the additional meetings if they were not necessary.

Board Member Katz moved, seconded by Chair Vasquez to move Item 5 to after Item 9.

*Board polled as follows: Takata-Vasquez, Larsen, Kwamilele, Katz, Oke, Ortega, Swafford, Williams, and Wanzo voted “aye.” Motion carried. Fike was not present for the vote.*

## **6. Transportation and Trucking Tax Category**

Margaret O’Brien, Revenue and Tax Administrator, advised this item was not considered by the Task Force. She stated the Task Force was review categories A through J. She stated the Task Force was to consider and analyze any changes to the Transportation and Trucking category. She apologized for staff being remiss in addressing the topic.

Chuck Maurer, Revenue Analyst stated transportation and construction companies in general could not be taxed as already pay an in-lieu business license tax to the state; however, local municipalities can tax on something other than gross receipts. He stated Oakland currently taxed them based on number of employees.

Discussion held concerning how staff was informing the Task Force of changes that could be made to this category.

Chuck Maurer, Revenue Analyst advised there would be about 300 accounts that would be affected. He provided the current breakdown for taxis/ambulances. He reviewed the current tax rate and Council Member Kalb’s proposal.

## **7. Use of Funds Committee Updates**

No updates.

## **8. Tax Rates Committee Updates:**

### **A. Study Session: Presentation of Ad Hoc Committee’s Proposed Tax Rates and Rationale**

Matt Newman, Blue Sky Consulting, displayed the current tax rate and ad hoc committee’s proposed rate.

Board Member Oke noted they followed the same structure that green dollar amounts were those higher than city proposed, red was less than city proposed and black was where they remained the same. She noted there was a payroll tax for companies who had more than 1,000 employees and over 1 billion in national sales. She reviewed the changes. She explained how they were focusing on 1) meeting the City Council’s proposed amounts, 2) consider any job losses and try to minimize those, and 3) allow a discount for small businesses (to still attract small businesses and help them grow).

Discussion held concerning how the ad hoc committee had spent 6 hours discussing their recommendations.

Discussion held how businesses were willing to pay more taxes if they received more services.

Discussion held pertaining to the revenue impact on those who would see the largest tax increase.

## **9. Action Items**

### **A. The Task Force may take action on the tax rate proposals from Task Force members, or ad hoc committees.**

*Chair Takata-Vasquez moved, seconded by Board Member Oke vote to adopt the rates proposed (60 B and was published on the City's website that Monday).*

Discussion held concerning how the information regarding the proposal had been available since Monday of that week.

*Board polled as follows: Takata-Vasquez, Katz, Oke, Ortega, Swafford, Williams, Wanzo and Fike voted "aye." Larsen, Kwamilele, and Williams voted "nay." Nine "ayes," and three "nays," motion carried.*

### **Revisit of Item 5 - Staff Updates**

#### **B. Proposed Revised Master Calendar (special meetings in October)**

Matt Newman, Blue Sky Consulting stated he would need additional information from the Use of Funds Committee to be included in the report.

Chair Takata moved to only add the October 21 and October 28<sup>th</sup> meetings

Discussion held pertaining to how staff could send out the information and the Board could reply, and those emails would then be posted for the next agenda.

Chair Takata-Vasquez withdrew her motion as there was no second.

*Chair Takata-Vasquez moved, seconded by Board Member Oke to hold meetings on October 14<sup>th</sup> and October 21<sup>st</sup>, but not on October 28<sup>th</sup>.*

*Board polled as follows: Takata-Vasquez, Larsen, Katz, Oke, Ortega, Swafford, Williams, Wanzo and Fike voted "aye." Motion carried.*

## **10. Agenda Requests for Future Meetings**

No items.

## **11. Open Forum**

Jackie Ray, Clorox representative, stated they had been in Oakland for over 100 years and were disappointed to see the proposed recommendation. She questioned if the payroll tax was an additional tax or an alternative to the existing.