



Council Meeting: February 9, 2010

**SUBJECT: Recommendation to Sunnyvale City Council to Approve
Confirmation of New Members to the NOVA Workforce Board**

REPORT IN BRIEF

The NOVA Workforce Board Nominating Committee is recommending confirmation of the following individuals to the NOVA Workforce Board:

Mr. Nicholas de Lorenzo, Director
National Council on Aging, Inc.

Ms. Jacque Hansen, Deputy Executive Director
Housing Authority of the County of Santa Clara

Ms. Donna Hezel, Rehabilitation Supervisor
California Department of Rehabilitation

Mr. Neil Struthers, CEO
Santa Clara County Building and Construction Trades Council

The NOVA Workforce Board Nominating Committee is comprised of Sunnyvale City Council member, Honorable David Whittum and Past Chairperson of the NOVA Workforce Board, Mr. Rich Allen. The Nominating Committee is charged with the responsibility of recommending candidates to the NOVA Workforce Board, for consideration by the Sunnyvale City Council.

The Nominating Committee is recommending Mr. Nicholas de Lorenzo, Ms. Jacque Hansen, Ms. Donna Hezel and Mr. Neil Struthers for four-year terms on the NOVA Workforce Board.

BACKGROUND

The federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998 stipulates the composition, roles and responsibilities of the local workforce board. The local workforce board is appointed by the chief local elected official. The Sunnyvale City Council serves as the Chief Local Elected Official for the NOVA consortium. The local workforce board determines how many seats are on the board, and is required to have a majority of representatives from business and representation from at least the following stakeholders:

- Business Executives (majority and chair)
- Education providers
- Labor Organizations
- Community-based Organizations
- Economic development agencies
- One-Stop partners

The roles and responsibilities of NOVA Workforce Board members include (but are not limited to):

- Take a leadership role in forging a strong and vital partnership between business and the workforce development community resulting in an entrepreneurial, market-driven, accountable and exceptional workforce investment system;
- Contribute specific expertise from key industries, articulating evolving industries' needs, critical to aligning our workforce with the jobs of the 21st Century;
- Develop and approve policy for workforce initiatives in the NOVA service-delivery area;
- Help create and provide oversight of a strategic plan;
- Evaluate and monitor program performance according to specified outcomes and measures; and
- Promote the NOVA Workforce Board and workforce through collaboration and relationship building with other businesses, organizations and groups.

EXISTING POLICY

The proposed activities are consistent with the City of Sunnyvale's Socio-Economic Goal 5.1F: Provide job training and employment services, within constraints of operative Federal regulations and available Federal funding to address the locally-determined employment and training needs of economically disadvantaged residents and others with special needs.

DISCUSSION

The NOVA Workforce Board Nominating Committee is recommending appointment of four candidates to the NOVA Workforce Board because of the individual strengths and assets each candidate can bring to the NOVA Workforce Board. In addition, these nominations also fill mandated one-stop partner and labor seats: Dr. Nicholas de Lorenzo of the National Council on Aging, Inc. will fill the senior services seat; Ms. Jacque Hansen of the Housing Authority of the County of Santa Clara will fill the housing seat replacing a retiring NOVA Board member from this organization; Ms. Donna Hezel of the California Department of Rehabilitation will fill the seat representing rehabilitation services replacing a NOVA Board member from this organization that can no longer serve; and Mr. Neil Struthers of the Santa Clara County

Building and Construction Trades Council will fill the labor seat that was recently vacated.

ABOUT THE CANDIDATES

Mr. Nicholas de Lorenzo, Director National Council on Aging, Inc.

National Council on Aging, Inc. (NCOA) is a national nonprofit advocacy organization, headquartered in Washington, D.C., with the mission to work in partnership with the community to develop innovative solutions to improve the lives of older Americans. As Director of the western program operations, Mr. de Lorenzo oversees all operations of NCOA on the west coast, directly monitoring six offices in Northern California and managing 135 staff. Mr. de Lorenzo brings to the Board sixteen years of experience in a leadership capacity in workforce development that includes membership on three Workforce Investment Boards and a commitment to the wellbeing and quality of life of seniors in this region. Mr. de Lorenzo's expertise will be invaluable to the NOVA Board as the Board looks to support older Americans and retired baby boomers that are seeking to re-enter the workforce in new and different ways through encore careers. Mr. de Lorenzo is filling a mandated seat as required by the federal Workforce Investment Act.

Ms. Jacque Hansen, Deputy Executive Director Housing Authority of the County of Santa Clara

The Housing Authority of the County of Santa Clara (HACSC), in operation for 41 years with a staff of over 260 employees, is one of the largest and most respected Housing Authorities in the country. Through partnerships with the community, HACSC develops and subsidizes housing for low-income families, seniors and persons with disabilities. As Deputy Executive Director of operations, Ms. Hansen is responsible for overseeing the general operations of the agency that includes General Services, Human Resources and Information Technology departments. Ms. Hansen brings to the Board many years of experience in both the private and public sectors with specific expertise in housing that is a critical need for Silicon Valley's workers, and has served in various leadership positions on community boards. Ms. Hansen's extensive knowledge will add value to the Board as it grapples with and seeks creative solutions to the challenges facing the workforce development community. Ms. Hansen is filling a mandated seat as required by the federal Workforce Investment Act.

Ms. Donna Hezel, Rehabilitation Supervisor California Department of Rehabilitation

The California Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) administers the largest vocational rehabilitation program in the country with the mission to work in

partnership with the community to provide services and advocacy for individuals with disabilities that will result in employment, independent living and equality. The local region of DOR employs 75 staff. As Rehabilitation Supervisor, Ms. Hezel is responsible for supervising, planning and evaluating the work of rehabilitation counselors, supporting contract negotiations, community relations and consumer appeals, and is DOR's liaison to community partners and employers. Ms. Hezel brings to the NOVA Board 16 years of experience with DOR in both Santa Clara and San Mateo counties and important expertise in the disability field essential for the Board to effectively serve the workforce development needs of persons with disabilities who face barriers to employment. Ms. Hezel is filling a mandated seat as required by the federal Workforce Investment Act.

Mr. Neil Struthers, CEO

Santa Clara County Building and Construction Trades Council

For decades, the Santa Clara County Building and Construction Trades Council (SCBTC) has provided leadership and exceptional training for the construction industry through apprenticeship programs in its affiliated unions. Today, twenty-three craft unions are affiliated with the Council representing over 30,000 highly trained, skilled construction industry workers in the Silicon Valley. SCBTC continues to stay ahead of the curve in continually meeting the changing needs of high tech companies and developers. As CEO of SCBTC, Mr. Struthers brings to the Board many years of experience in preparing workers for jobs in the 21st Century and, as a community leader, working with diverse organizations to better coordinate and connect the needs of employers with the skills of workers. This will be particularly critical to the NOVA Board's work during this protracted economic downturn. Mr. Struthers is filling a mandated seat as required by the federal Workforce Investment Act.

These appointments comply with the requirements of the federal Workforce Investment Act.

FISCAL IMPACT

No fiscal impact.

PUBLIC CONTACT

Public contact was made by posting the Council agenda on the City's official-notice bulletin board outside City Hall, at the Sunnyvale Senior Center, Community Center and Department of Public Safety; and by making the agenda and report available at the Sunnyvale Public Library, the Office of the City Clerk and on the City's Web site.

ALTERNATIVES

- (1) Confirm the four candidates recommended by the NOVA Workforce Board Nominating Committee for the NOVA Workforce Board.

- (2) Confirm select candidates or no candidate recommended by the NOVA Workforce Nominating Committee for the NOVA Workforce Board.

RECOMMENDATION

The NOVA Workforce Board Nominating Committee recommends that the Sunnyvale City Council approves Alternate #1 and confirms Mr. Nicholas de Lorenzo, Ms. Jacque Hansen, Ms. Donna Hezel and Mr. Neil Struthers for four-year terms on the NOVA Workforce Board.

Reviewed by:

Kris Stadelman, Director, Department of Employment Development
Prepared by: Eileen Stanly, Analyst

Approved by:

Gary M. Luebbers
City Manager