

**Council Meeting: August 13, 2013****SUBJECT: Approve Confirmation of New Members to 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 chief local elected official appoints the local workforce board; 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 and articulate evolving industries' needs, critical to aligning our workforce with the jobs of the 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

### **CEQA REVIEW**

N/A

### **DISCUSSION**

The NOVA Workforce Board Nominating Committee is comprised of Sunnyvale City Council member Tara Martin-Milius and NOVA Workforce Board Co-chairperson Steve Van Dorn and Vice Chairperson Poncho Guevara. The Nominating Committee is charged with the responsibility of recommending candidates for appointment to the NOVA Workforce Board, for consideration by the Sunnyvale City Council. The Nominating Committee is recommending appointment of three 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 will fill WIA mandated seats.

### **ABOUT THE CANDIDATES**

Ms. Brenda Guidry-Brown, Director  
Peninsula Family Service

Peninsula Family Service, employing approximately 200 employees, is a nonprofit organization that transforms lives by offering innovative and effective programs designed to empower those in need to realize their full potential to become self-sufficient members of the community. As Director of the Second Careers Employment Program, Ms. Guidry-Brown is responsible for managing the Mature Worker Program that assists older individuals with interview preparation, vocational counseling and goal planning, resume preparation, internships, on-the-job training and employment referrals and placement services in a four-county region. Ms. Guidry-Brown brings to the NOVA Board over forty years of experience working with employment and training programs including the local workforce system in San Francisco. Ms. Guidry-Brown's expertise will be invaluable to the Board in serving the unique needs of its growing aging population and will fill a WIA mandated seat for senior services.

Ms. Linda Labit, Staff Services Manager  
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 about 75 staff. As Staff Services Manager, Ms. Labit directly supervises a team of 13 individuals that include counselors, service coordinators, technicians and support staff in the San Jose office of DOR. Ms. Labit brings to the NOVA Board thirty years of experience working with diverse populations toward successful employment including ten years working directly

with NOVA and has developed extensive contacts and resources. This will be invaluable to the Board's commitment to serve the specialized workforce development needs of persons with disabilities who face barriers to employment. Ms. Labit will fill a WIA mandated seat for DOR.

Ms. Alison Ascher Webber, Associate Director

Building Skills Partnership

Building Skills Partnership, a unique statewide labor-sponsored training partnership, brings together diverse stakeholders that include the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), unionized janitorial contractors and businesses to increase low income, immigrant families' job skills, educational achievement and access to benefits and community resources. As Associate Director for Northern California, Ms. Webber is responsible for developing and leading educational programs for janitors and other low-wage, primarily immigrant service workers in the San Francisco Bay Area, Silicon Valley and Sacramento. Ms. Webber brings to the NOVA Board a wealth of experience in the education and training of lower-skilled workers that will be invaluable to the Board as it works to raise the skill levels and expand employment opportunities for individuals who face challenges in accessing higher-wage jobs. Ms. Webber is returning to the Board after a brief hiatus and will fill a WIA mandated seat for organized labor.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

No fiscal impact.

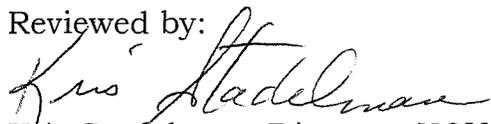
**PUBLIC CONTACT**

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.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The NOVA Workforce Board Nominating Committee recommends that the Sunnyvale City Council confirm Ms. Brenda Guidry-Brown, Ms. Linda Labit, and Ms. Alison Ascher Webber to the NOVA Workforce Board.

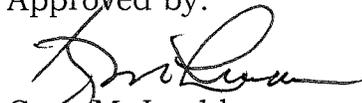
Reviewed by:



Kris Stadelman, Director, NOVA Workforce Services

Prepared by: Eileen Stanly, Analyst

Approved by:



Gary M. Luebbers  
City Manager