



Council Meeting: December 6, 2011

**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:

Ms. Louise Hofmeister, Director of Housing Programs
Housing Authority of the County of Santa Clara

Ms. Meerah Rajavel, Senior Director in Information Technology
McAfee, Inc.

Ms. Margarita Vega, Director for Northern California
Building Skills Partnership

The NOVA Workforce Board Nominating Committee is comprised of Sunnyvale Mayor, Honorable Melinda Hamilton, and NOVA Workforce Board Vice Chairperson Steve Van Dorn of the Santa Clara Chamber of Commerce and NOVA Board member Carl Cimino of the Pipe Trades Training Center. 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 Ms. Louise Hofmeister, Ms. Meerah Rajavel and Ms. Margarita Vega for four-year terms on the NOVA 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 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 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 housing, business and labor seats: Ms. Louise Hofmeister of the Housing Authority of the County of Santa Clara will fill the housing seat, Ms. Meerah Rajavel of McAfee, Inc. will fill the business seat and Ms. Margarita Vega of Building Skills Partnership will fill the organized labor seat.

ABOUT THE CANDIDATES

Ms. Louise Hofmeister, Director of Housing Programs
Housing Authority of the County of Santa Clara

The Housing Authority of the County of Santa Clara (HACSC), through partnerships in the community, develops and subsidizes housing for over 17,000

households in Santa Clara County that include low-income families, veterans, seniors and persons with disabilities. As Director of Housing Programs, Ms. Hofmeister manages a staff of 110 employees and administers the full spectrum of programs offered by HACSC, including the new Moving-to-Work initiative with the goal to incentivize families toward self-reliance. In addition, Ms. Hofmeister works with community partners to coordinate services, locally, while effectively leveraging resources. Ms. Hofmeister brings to the NOVA Workforce Board many years of extensive experience and leadership in the housing field and on community boards and particular expertise in developing innovative solutions for assisting low-income families achieve economic independence. Ms. Hofmeister's contributions will be invaluable to the NOVA Board as it assists disadvantaged workers obtain the necessary skills and resources to secure self-sufficient employment to support themselves and their families.

Ms. Meerah Rajavel, Senior Director in Information Technology
McAfee, Inc.

McAfee, Inc., a fully owned subsidiary of Intel Corporation, is a global security technology company, developing and delivering solutions and services that secure systems and networks for consumers and businesses. As Senior Director in Information Technology, Ms. Rajavel is responsible for optimizing business operations in the areas of commerce/order management, finance and business intelligence and delivering technology solutions that will enhance business productivity and growth. Ms. Rajavel brings to the NOVA Workforce Board vast experience and leadership with a broad range of businesses, extensive knowledge of the technology industry, innovative approaches to tackling challenging issues especially during periods of change, and broad networks in the community both in business and nonprofit sectors. Ms. Rajavel's contributions will be invaluable to the NOVA Board as it faces new challenges in seeking to close the gap between the workforce needs of Silicon Valley businesses and the skills and talents of job seekers in a climate of continuous change where new industries are constantly evolving to replace the obsolete.

Ms. Margarita Vega, Director of Northern California
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 Director of Northern California, Ms. Vega 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. In addition, Ms. Vega works with the organization's Executive Director and Board of Directors on the development and implementation of its vision, strategic direction

and operational plan in the region. Ms. Vega brings to the NOVA Board a wealth of experience and knowledge in the education and training of lower-skilled workers, both in this country and abroad, that will be invaluable to the Board as it works to raise the skill levels and expand employment opportunities for those individuals that have faced challenges in accessing higher-wage jobs.

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 three candidates recommended by the NOVA Workforce Board Nominating Committee for the NOVA Workforce Board.
- (2) Confirm one or two candidates or no candidate recommended by the NOVA Workforce Board 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 Ms. Louise Hofmeister, Ms. Meerah Rajavel and Ms. Margarita Vega for four-year terms on the NOVA Workforce Board.

Reviewed by:

Kris Stadelman, Director, NOVA Workforce Services

Prepared by: Eileen Stanly, Analyst

Approved by:

Gary M. Luebbbers
City Manager