



Diamond Business Association, Inc.

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Southeastern Diamond Business Association (SDBD)

Board of Directors Meeting 5:30pm

June 7, 2016 at Tubman Chavez Community Center, 415 Euclid Avenue, San Diego, CA 92114

MINUTES of the SDBD Meeting June 7, 2016

Board Members Present: Carlos Vasquez (CIVIC San Diego), Marion McCord (Alpha Center), Hugh Muhammad (RBW Security), Brian Maty (Metro PCS), Stephen Walters (PCS World Network).

Absent: Omar Passons (Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation).

Others Present: Liliana Garcia-Rivera (Executive Director, SDBD), Karina Velazquez (Program Manager, SDBD), Elizabeth Studebaker (City of San Diego Economic Development Department), Anthony Prather (City of San Diego Development Services Department) Abdur-Rahim Hameed (National Black Contractors Association), Wali Fardan.

Board Meeting was called to order by President Carlos Vasquez at 5:40pm. Quorum was present (5 of 6 members).

Request for Ramadan Banner Installation by Abdur-Rahim Hameed

Carlos Vasquez gave a brief history of the concerns the board had on whether or not Ramadan was considered a religious holiday. Mr. Hameed stated in his correspondence that it was a seasonal holiday. The Ramadan banners went up last year and Hugh Muhammad was to lead a committee to get a ruling from the City. The committee was never created and the City of San Diego never provided a letter saying whether Ramadan banners were considered religious or was not.

Marion McCord shared a 2004 news article that reported that a Code Compliance Officer ordered the take down of the banners. Mr. Hameed indicated that they did take them down and that Economic Development Department had them reinstalled.

Anthony Prather, City of San Diego Plan Review Specialist, stated that his office could provide a permit if they submitted a written request and an banner photo in order to verify it does not violate any City regulations. The permit fee is \$194 for a one-time review.

Liliana stated that there is an SDBD Banner Program Application. SDBD needs to upload this application on the www.sdbd.org website as well as link it to the City permit required.

Motion made by Stephen Walters to allow the Ramadan banners to go up as long as they have the proper permits from the City and have paid in full. We will further the banner policy. Second by Hugh Muhammad. Vote: 4-1-0. Marion McCord Abstained. Motion passed.

Carlos Vasquez strongly emphasized that we will not do this again if we don't have the appropriate applications, input from the city and fees. Mr. Hameed turned in a completed SDBD banner application and a check for the installation and removal of the banners.

Announcements

Elizabeth Studebaker stated that they City is revamping the banner policy and will ask all districts to take down and not put up banners that are at street light intersionsions or blocking directional signs.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:56pm.

Written by Karina Velazquez, SDBD Program Manager

Finalized by Liliana Garcia-Rivera, SDBD Executive Director