

FOR CONSIDERATION

March 26, 2010

TO: The Directors

FROM: Dennis M. Mullen

SUBJECT: Property Disposition Guidelines

REQUEST FOR: Approval of Property Disposition Guidelines, Appointment of Contracting Officer and Authorization to Take Related Actions

Background

The Public Authorities Accountability Act, Chapter 766 of the 2005 Laws of New York (the “Act”), establishes standards for the governance and operation of public authorities such as Empire State Development Corporation (the “Corporation”). The Act was signed into law by the Governor on January 13, 2006. Title 5-A of the Act requires the adoption of guidelines with respect to property disposition. The Act also requires that the guidelines must be annually reviewed and approved by the Corporation. Since 2006, the Corporation has adopted and implemented the guidelines that are described below (the “Guidelines”), which effectively incorporate all requirements of the Act. These Guidelines are proposed for re-adoption by the Corporation, with the changes noted below.

Guidelines Regarding Disposition of Property

In conformity with the Act, as recently amended and described below, the Guidelines Regarding Property Disposition for the Corporation (the “Guidelines”), generally provides for the following:

- a. appointment of a contracting officer;
- b. disseminating and posting the Guidelines;
- c. inventory and reporting of status of corporation property; and
- d. obligations of the corporation with respect to pricing and methods of disposition.

The obligations with respect to pricing generally require disposition of property at no less than fair market value as determined after publicly advertising for bids. Property consists of both real and personal property, and appraisals are required for disposition of real property and certain other not readily valued property.

The most significant exception to the bidding requirement are negotiated transfers to the State and negotiated transfers of personal property that has non-utilitarian qualities such as artistic quality or historical significance. This exception can permit sole sourcing.

Finally, for most larger negotiated transactions, including exchanges, leases and real property dispositions, an explanatory statement of the transaction must be sent 90 days in advance of such disposal to the Comptroller, Director of the Budget, Commissioner of General Services and the Legislature.

Public Authorities Reform Act of 2009

The Public Authorities Reform Act of 2009 became effective on March 1, 2009 and makes substantial changes to the Act including several changes to the provisions regarding property disposition summarized below:

1. Requires appraisals for any property not readily valued in an active market.
2. Eliminates economic development exception requirement to publicly advertise for bids; but
3. Permits sale of personal property having non-utilitarian qualities such as artistic quality or historical significance to be sold without publicly advertising for bids
4. Eliminates exception to provide explanatory statement for leases of less than 5 years if rent over \$100,000 and applies requirement to provide explanatory statement for any lease with annual rent over \$15,000.
5. Creates a new series of requirements and exceptions (see Section 7) for disposing of property for less than fair market value. If the transfer is to a government or other public entity or the purpose of the transfer is within the purpose or mission of ESDC, disposal is permitted. If not, the transfer is subject to denial by the governor, senate or assembly. In any sale below fair market value certain transactional information must be submitted to the Board which must make a written determination that there is no reasonable alternative to the transfer.

Requested Action

The Directors are being asked to adopt the attached Guidelines, appoint the Procurement Officer of the Corporation as the Contracting Officer for purposes of the Guidelines and to authorize the taking of related actions.

Attachments
Resolution
Guidelines

March 26, 2010

NEW YORK STATE URBAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION d/b/a EMPIRE
STATE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION – (the “Corporation”) Approval of Property
Disposition Guidelines, Appointment of Contracting Officer and Authorization to Take
Related Actions

WHEREAS, the Corporation wishes to comply with Title 5-A of the Public Authorities Accountability Act (“Law”) as amended by the Public Authorities Reform Act of 2009 which mandates that public benefit corporations annually prepare the Corporation’s Guidelines Regarding Disposition of Property (the “Guidelines”) attached hereto.

WHEREAS, the Corporation has prepared the Guidelines in accordance with the Act as amended; and

WHEREAS, the Corporation has reviewed said Guidelines and found them to be satisfactory;

WHEREAS, the Guidelines require the appointment of a Contracting Officer;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that in accordance in the materials presented to this meeting and ordered filed in the records of the Corporation, the Guidelines as amended are hereby approved; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Procurement Officer for the Corporation is hereby appointed as the Contracting Officer as required and set forth in the Guidelines; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the President and Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Financial Officer, the Treasurer or their designees be, and each of them hereby is, authorized and empowered to submit and file the Guidelines, as required by law, and to take such action and execute such agreements and instruments as he or she may consider necessary or desirable or appropriate in connection with the implementation of the Guidelines and to take related actions.

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NEW YORK STATE URBAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

D/B/A EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

GUIDELINES REGARDING DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY

I. Definitions. As used herein, unless a different meaning is required by the context.

1. “Contracting officer” shall mean the Procurement Officer who shall be appointed by resolution of the Board of Directors to be responsible for the disposition of property.

2. “Dispose” or “disposal” shall mean transfer of title or any other beneficial interest in personal or real property in accordance with these guidelines.

3. “Property” shall mean personal property in excess of five thousand dollars in value, real property, and any inchoate or other interest in such property, to the extent that such interest may be conveyed to another person for any purpose, excluding an interest securing a loan or other financial obligation of another party.

II. Duties of the Corporation with respect to guidelines related to the disposal of property.

1. a. The contracting officer shall be responsible for the Corporation’s compliance with, and enforcement of these guidelines.

b. The Corporation’s contracting activities shall comply with Title 5-A of the Public Authorities Law, the New York State Urban Development Act (the “Act”) and any other applicable law for the disposal of property.

c. These guidelines shall be annually reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors.

d. On or before the thirty-first day of March in each year, the Corporation shall file with the comptroller a copy of the guidelines most recently reviewed and approved by the Corporation, including the name of the Corporation’s designated contracting officer. At the time of filing such guidelines with the comptroller, the Corporation shall also post such guidelines on the Corporation’s internet website. Guidelines on the Corporation’s internet website shall be maintained on such website at least until the procurement guidelines for the following year are posted on such website.

2. Inventory. The Corporation shall:

a. maintain adequate inventory controls and accountability systems for all property under its control;

b. periodically inventory such property to determine which property shall be disposed of;

c. produce a written report of such property in accordance with subdivision three of this section;

d. transfer or dispose of such property as promptly as possible in accordance with Section III.

3. Reporting

a. The Corporation shall publish, not less frequently than annually, a report listing all real property of the Corporation. Such report shall include a list and full description of all real and personal property disposed of during such period. The report shall contain the price received by the Corporation and the name of the purchaser for all such property sold by the Corporation during such period.

b. The Corporation shall delivery copies of such report to the comptroller, the director of the budget, the commissioner of general services, the legislature and Authorities Budget Office.

III. Disposal of Corporation's property.

1. Supervision and direction. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the contracting officer shall have supervision and direction over the disposition of property of the Corporation.

2. Custody and control. The custody and control of the property of the Corporation, pending its disposition, and the disposal of such property, shall be performed by the Corporation or by the commissioner of general services when so authorized under this section.

3. Method of disposition. Subject to Section II of these guidelines, the Corporation may dispose of property for not less than the fair market value of such property by sale, exchange, or transfer, for cash, credit, or other property, with or without warranty, and upon such other terms and conditions as the contracting officer deems proper, and it may execute such documents for the transfer of title or other interest in property and take such other action as it deems necessary or proper to dispose of such property under the provisions of this section. Provided, however, that no disposition of real property, or any interest in real property, shall be made unless an appraisal of the value of such property has been made by an independent appraiser and included in the record of the transaction and, provided further, that no disposition of any property, which because of its unique nature or the unique circumstances of the proposed transaction is not readily valued by reference to an active market for similar property, shall be made without a similar appraisal.

4. Sales by the commissioner of general services. When it shall be deemed advantageous to the state, the Corporation may enter into an agreement with the commissioner of general

services where under such commissioner may dispose of property of the Corporation under terms and conditions agreed to by the Corporation and the commissioner of general services. In disposing of any such property of the Corporation, the commissioner of general services shall be bound by the terms of this title and references to the contracting officer shall be deemed to refer to such commissioner.

5. Validity of deed, bill of sale, lease or other instrument. A deed, bill of sale, lease, or other instrument executed by or on behalf of the Corporation, purporting to transfer title or any other interest in property under these guidelines shall be conclusive evidence of compliance with the provisions of these guidelines insofar as concerns title or other interest of any bona fide grantee or transferee who has given valuable consideration for such title or other interest and has not received actual or constructive notice of lack of such compliance prior to the closing.

6. Bids for disposal; advertising; procedure; disposal by negotiation; explanatory statement.

a. all disposals or contracts for disposal of property of the Corporation made or authorized by the contracting officer shall be made after publicly advertising for bids except as provided in paragraph c of this subdivision.

b. Whenever public advertising for bids is required under paragraph a of this subdivision:

(i) the advertisement for bids shall be made at such time prior to the disposal or contract, through such methods, and on such terms and conditions as shall permit full and free competition consistent with the value and nature of the property;

(ii) all bids shall be publicly disclosed at the time and place stated in the advertisement; and

(iii) the award shall be made with reasonable promptness by notice to the responsible bidder whose bid, conforming to the invitation for bids, will be most advantageous to the state, price and other factors considered; provided, that all bids may be rejected when it is in the public interest to do so.

c. Disposals and contracts for disposal of property may be negotiated or made by public auction without regard to paragraphs a and b of this subdivision but subject to obtaining such competition as is feasible under the circumstances, if:

(i) the personal property involved has qualities separate from the utilitarian purpose of such property, such as artistic quality, antiquity, historical significance, rarity, or other quality of similar effect, that would tend to increase its value, or if the personal property is to be sold in such quantity that, if it were disposed of under paragraphs a and b of this subdivision, would adversely affect the state or local market for such property, and the estimated fair market value of such property and other satisfactory terms of disposal can be obtained by negotiation;

(ii) the fair market value of the property does not exceed fifteen thousand dollars;

(iii) bid prices after advertising therefore are not reasonable, either as to all or some part of the property, or have not been independently arrived at in open competition;

(iv) the disposal will be to the state of any political subdivision, and the fair market value of the property and other satisfactory terms of disposal are obtained by negotiation; or

(v) under the circumstances permitted by section 7; or

(vi) such action is otherwise authorized by law.

d. (i) An explanatory statement shall be prepared of the circumstances of each disposal by negotiation of:

(A) any personal property which has an estimated fair market value in excess of fifteen thousand dollars;

(B) any real property that has an estimated fair market value in excess of one hundred thousand dollars, except that any real property disposed of by lease or exchange shall only be subject to clauses (C) and (D) of this subparagraph;

(C) any real property disposed of by lease if the estimated annual rent over the term of the lease is in excess of fifteen thousand dollars;

(D) any real property or real and related personal property disposed of by exchange, regardless of value or any property any part of the consideration for which is real property.

(ii) Each such statement shall be transmitted to the persons entitled to receive copies of the report required under section II of these guidelines not less than ninety days in advance of such disposal, and a copy thereof shall be preserved in the files of the Corporation.

e. For purposes of Section c(ii), (v) and Section d of this paragraph 6 when an appraisal is not feasible or practical, fair market value shall be determined by the board of directors based on the recommendation of the contracting officer. In making such recommendation, the contracting officer shall make due inquiry of values of comparable property including, as appropriate, geographic location, use, occupancy, condition, obsolescence, outstanding debts, taxes and liens and intended future use.

7. Disposal of property for less than fair market value.

a. No asset owned, leased or otherwise in the control of a public authority may be sold, leased, or otherwise alienated for less than its fair market value except if:

(i) the transferee is a government or other public entity, and the terms and conditions of the transfer require that the ownership and use of the asset will remain with the government or any other public entity;

(ii) the purpose of the transfer is within the purpose, mission or governing statute of the public authority; or

(iii) in the event a public authority seeks to transfer an asset for less than its fair market value to other than a governmental entity, which disposal would not be consistent with the authority's mission, purpose or governing statutes, such authority shall provide written notification thereof to the governor, the speaker of the assembly, and the temporary president of the senate, and such proposed transfer shall be subject to denial by the governor, the senate, or the assembly. Denial by the governor shall take the form of a signed certification by the governor. Denial by either house of the legislature shall take the form of a resolution by such house. The governor and each house of the legislature shall take any such action within sixty days of receiving notification of such proposed transfer during months of January through June, provided that if the legislature receives notification of such proposed transfer during the months of July through December, the legislature may take any such action within sixty days of January first of the following year. If no such resolution or certification is performed within sixty days of such notification of the proposed transfer to the governor, senate and assembly, the public authority may effectuate such transfer. Provided, however, that with respect to a below market transfer by a local authority that is not within the purpose, mission or governing statute of the local authority, if the governing statute provides for the approval of such transfer by the executive and legislative branches of the political subdivision in which such local authority resides, and the transfer is of property obtained by the authority from that political subdivision, then such approval shall be sufficient to permit the transfer.

(b) In the event a below fair market value asset transfer is proposed, the following information must be provided to the authority board and the public:

(i) a full description of the asset;

(ii) an appraisal of the fair market value of the asset and any other information establishing the fair market value sought by the board.

(iii) a description of the purpose of the transfer, and a reasonable statement of the kind and amount of the benefit to the public resulting from the transfer, including but not limited to the kind, number, location, wages or salaries of jobs created or preserved as required by the transfer, the benefits, if any,

to the communities in which the asset is situated as are required by the transfer.

- (iv) a statement of the value to be received compared to the fair market value;
- (v) the names of any private parties participating in the transfer, and if different than the statement required by subparagraph (iv) of this paragraph, a statement of the value to the private party; and
- (vi) the names of other private parties who have made an offer for such asset, the value offered, and the purpose for which the asset was sought to be used.

(c) Before approving the disposal of any property for less than fair market value, the board of an authority shall consider the information described in paragraph b of this subdivision and make a written determination that there is no reasonable alternative to the proposed below market transfer that would achieve the same purpose of such transfer.

Dated: March 2, 2010