



Legislation Text

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AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A THIRTY (30) YEAR TAX ABATEMENT TO 306 MLK BLVD URBAN RENEWAL COMPANY, LLC, 45 ACADEMY STREET, SUITE 503, NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07102, FOR A PROJECT TO PRESERVE AND REHABILITATE A VACANT HISTORIC STRUCTURE INTO TWENTY-ONE (21) MARKET RATE AND FOUR (4) DEED RESTRICTED AFFORDABLE RESIDENTIAL RENTAL UNITS AND 47,358 SQUARE FEET OF NON-PROFIT OFFICE AND PROGRAM SPACE LOCATED AT 292-306 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BOULEVARD, NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07102 AND IDENTIFIED ON THE CITY'S TAX MAP AS BLOCK 42, LOT 44.01. (CENTRAL WARD)
Deferred 6PSF-d 111819

WHEREAS, 306 MLK BLVD Urban Renewal Company, LLC, 45 Academy Street, Suite 503, Newark, New Jersey 07102, filed an application with the Mayor seeking a long term tax abatement under the Long Term Tax Exemption Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:20-1 et seq., for a thirty (30) year term for a project to preserve and rehabilitate a vacant historic structure into twenty-one (21) market rate and four (4) deed restricted affordable residential rental units and 47,358 square feet of nonprofit office and program space located at 292-306 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Newark, New Jersey and identified on the City's tax map as Block 42, Lot 44.01(the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, the Mayor has submitted the application and proposed Financial Agreement to the Municipal Council with his recommendation thereof, a copy of which is annexed hereto; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Ordinance 6PSF-a adopted May 4, 2011, the entity has filed with the City a sworn statement that it has not made any contribution in violation of said ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Council has determined pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:20-11 that the relative benefits of this Project outweigh any costs associated with this tax abatement and that without the tax abatement granted herein, the Project would not be undertaken.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY, THAT:

1. The application of 306 MLK BLVD Urban Renewal Company, LLC, 45 Academy Street, Suite 503, Newark, New Jersey 07102 (the "Entity"), for the development, maintenance and operation of the Project described in the application is hereby approved in accordance with the recommendation of the Mayor for a project to preserve and rehabilitate a vacant historic structure into twenty-one (21) market rate and four (4) deed restricted affordable residential rental units and 47,358 square feet of nonprofit office and program space located at 292-306 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Newark, New Jersey and identified on the City's tax map as Block 42, Lot 44.01 (the "Project").

2. The abatement from taxation on improvements is hereby granted to the Entity for a period of thirty (30) years from the date of substantial completion of the project, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:20-12, and only so long as the Entity is subject to and complies with the proposed Financial Agreement and the Long Term Tax Exemption Law, as

amended and supplemented, and upon further condition that the entity does not file a petition of tax appeal for the premises on, which the project is to be located.

3. The Mayor of the City of Newark is hereby authorized to execute, on the City's behalf, the Financial Agreement in the form attached hereto.

4. The Acting Director of the Department of Economic and Housing Development shall file an executed copy of the Financial Agreement authorized by this ordinance in the Office of the City Clerk.

5. The Project, when completed, will conform with all State laws and ordinances of the City of Newark relating to its construction and use.

6. The Affirmative Action Program now on file in the Office of the City Clerk is declared to be a material condition of the Financial Agreement authorized by this ordinance.

7. The Entity shall in the operation of the Project comply with all laws so that no person shall be subject to any discrimination because of race, religious principles, color, national origin, or ancestry.

8. The Entity shall file an employment report (herein described below) with the Office of Affirmative Action who shall forthwith after receiving the report send a copy thereof to the City Clerk and the Office of Affirmative Action shall forthwith investigate the matters contained therein and report its findings to the Municipal Council.

9. The annual service charge for years one (1) through fifteen (15) shall be based on ten percent (10%) of Annual Gross Revenues generated from the Project or the minimum annual service charge, as further set forth in the Financial Agreement.

For years sixteen (16) through twenty-one (21) of the Financial Agreement, the Annual Service Charge shall be an amount equal to the greater of (i) 10% of Annual Gross Revenue, (ii) the Minimum Annual Service Charge or (iii) 20% of the amount of the taxes otherwise due on the value of the Land and Improvements.

For years twenty-two (22) through twenty-seven (27) of the Financial Agreement, the Annual Service Charge shall be an amount equal to the greater of (i) 10% of Annual Gross Revenue, (ii) the Minimum Annual Service Charge or (iii) 40% of the amount of the taxes otherwise due on the value of the Land and Improvements.

For years twenty-eight (28) through twenty-nine (29) of the Financial Agreement, the Annual Service Charge shall be an amount equal to the greater of (i) 10% of Annual Gross Revenue, (ii) the Minimum Annual Service Charge or (iii) 60% of the amount of the taxes otherwise due on the value of the Land and Improvements.

For year thirty (30) of the Financial Agreement, the Annual Service Charge shall be an amount equal to the greater of (i) 10% of Annual Gross Revenue, (ii) the Minimum Annual Service Charge or (iii) 80% of the amount of the taxes otherwise due on the value of the Land and Improvements;

10. The Entity shall pay the minimum annual service charge, as calculated pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:20-12(b)(2)(e) and the Financial Agreement, in each year in which the annual service charge, as provided in paragraph 9 above, would be less than the minimum annual service charge.

11. The following occurrences and requirements are express conditions of the granting of this tax abatement, to be performed by the Entity and the failure to comply with these requirements will result in the cancellation of the tax abatement:

(a) The Entity shall not, without prior consent of the Municipal Council of the City of Newark, sell, lease, assign, encumber, subordinate, convey, mortgage or transfer all, or any part of the Project, so as to sever, disconnect or divide the improvements from the land embraced within the Project;

(b) The Entity, pursuant to the Revised City Ordinance 10:24-1 et seq., as amended, shall be deemed to agree that it will in good faith assist the City of Newark in its goal of having 50% of all new jobs arising out of the businesses conducted on the Project site after the issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy and during the continuation of the tax exemption, dedicated to Newark residents, of which 25% of such all new employees shall be minority residents;

(c) The Entity shall concomitantly, with the submission of the annual report required of it by N.J.S.A. 40A:20-9(d), attach an employment report under oath, with particulars, stating the manner and the extent to which it has complied with 11(b) above. This employment report shall be filed with the Director of Finance, the City Clerk, and the Acting Director of the Department of Economic and Housing Development;

(d) The Entity shall pay all outstanding taxes and all outstanding water and sewer charges within thirty (30) days of the adoption of this ordinance;

(e) The Entity shall submit to the City a copy of its formation documents, as approved by the Department of Community Affairs and filed with the Secretary of State;

(f) The Entity shall receive a favorable review and certification from the appropriate municipal departments and agencies, pursuant to City Ordinance 6S&Fd, adopted October 21, 1992, as amended;

(g) The Entity shall pay full taxes on the land and improvements of the project until the annual service charge becomes effective;

(h) The Entity shall complete the project within twenty four (24) months of the adoption of this ordinance; provided, however, that the Acting Director of the Department of Economic and Housing Development is hereby authorized to enter into a maximum of two (2) six (6) month extensions of the construction schedule deadlines set forth within the Financial Agreement and any other timelines and milestones, provided that such deadlines, timelines, and milestones are not extended beyond the two permitted six (6) month extensions, subject to full written disclosure (in the form of a signed Memorandum to be submitted prior to adoption) to the Newark Municipal Council by the Acting Director of the Department of Economic and Housing Development;

(i) The Entity shall secure all financing prior to the commencement of any construction.

12. That in any year that the Entity shall fail to make four (4) consecutive land tax payments when due and owing in the manner defined in N.J.S.A. 40A:20-12(b)(2)(e), such delinquency shall render the Entity ineligible for any land tax credits against the annual service charge.

13. The Entity understands and agrees that the revenue projections set forth in the application are estimates and that the actual payments in lieu of taxes to be paid by the Entity to the

City shall be determined pursuant to the Financial Agreement to be executed between the Entity and the City of Newark.

14. The Entity agrees that the Entity shall pay to the City a fee of two percent (2%) of the Annual Service Charge as an administrative fee to be paid annually for the term of this Agreement.

15. To the extent of any inconsistency with any prior City ordinance and/or Municipal Code provision governing the granting of long-term tax exemptions, including, inter alia, procedures for application, review and approval, required terms of the financial agreement, required conditions and covenants, limits on duration, means of enforcement, and all other matters whatsoever, such prior City ordinances and/or Municipal Code provisions are hereby waived, but only with respect to this ordinance.

16. Within ten (10) calendar days following the later of the effective date of this Ordinance or the execution of the Financial Agreement by the Entity, the City Clerk Office shall transmit a certified copy of the Ordinance approving the tax abatement and Financial Agreement to the Chief Financial Officer of the county and to the County Counsel for informational purposes.

17. This ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication in accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey.

STATEMENT

This ordinance grants a long term tax abatement to 306 MLK BLVD Urban Renewal Company, LLC, 45 Academy Street, Suite 503, Newark, New Jersey 07102, for a thirty (30) year term for a project to preserve and rehabilitate a vacant historic structure into twenty-one (21) market rate and four (4) deed restricted affordable residential rental units and 47,358 square feet of nonprofit office and program space located at 292-306 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Newark, New Jersey and identified on the City's tax map as Block 42, Lot 44.01. (Central Ward)