

CITY OF OAKLAND



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Date: July 26, 2021

To: Members of City Council and Members of the Public

From: Vice Mayor Rebecca Kaplan

Re: **Oral Report From Henry L. Gardner, Executive Director Of The Oakland-Alameda County Joint Powers Authority (“JPA”), On (A) Status Of Negotiations With The African American Sports And Entertainment Group (“AASEG”) Regarding Potential General, Non-Binding Terms Of A License Agreement (“Term Sheet”) With The JPA For Use Of The Oakland-Alameda County Arena By A Future Local Team To Be Affiliated With The Women’s Basketball League Known As The Women’s National Basketball Association; And (B) Next Steps, Including JPA Board’s Anticipated Consideration Of A Resolution Approving The General, Non-Binding Term Sheet Regarding A Potential License Agreement With AASEG At The JPA Board’s July 30, 2021 Meeting; And (2) Potential Council Action Providing Direction To The Council’s Representatives On The JPA Board Regarding Their Votes On The Resolution The JPA Board Will Consider On July 30, 2021.**

Dear Colleagues on the City Council and Members of the Public,

The African American Sports and Entertainment Group (AASEG) has expressed interested in bringing a Women’s National Basketball Association (WNBA) team to the City of Oakland and has submitted a proposal to the Oakland Alameda County Coliseum Joint Powers Authority (JPA) to lease the Arena for use by a professional women’s basketball team affiliated with the WNBA. AASEG includes Loop Capital, SUDA, LLC, 360 Total Concept, and The Robert Bobb Group. It is an Oakland-based group focused on creating economic opportunity for the Black community in East Oakland and using the Coliseum Complex as a vehicle for economic equity and social justice. This agenda item provides an opportunity to receive a report from Henry Gardner, Executive Director of the JPA, on the status of negotiations with AASEG and next steps that will be considered at the JPA’s July 30th meeting.

The Oakland Arena has long been a hub for economic opportunity by providing thousands of jobs to Oakland residents. It is located in East Oakland, and is centrally-located, with easy transit access, parking and freeway access, and near the Oakland airport. Sports and entertainment venues, like the Oakland arena, provide jobs and economic opportunities to the communities they are based. Bringing a WNBA team to Oakland will support economic opportunities for the community, especially those that have been negatively impacted by decades of underinvestment.

City Council
July 26, 2021
File #21-0590

To: Members of City Council and Members of the Public
Subject: Oral Report from JPA Regarding Non-Binding Term Sheet with AASEG to Bring
WNBA Team to Oakland
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On July 16, 2021, the JPA considered, and unanimously passed, a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to negotiate with the African American Sports and Entertainment Group, LLC regarding terms of a license agreement for the use of the Oakland-Alameda County Arena by a future local team to be affiliated with the professional women's basketball league known as the WNBA. This was a vital step in moving forward with AASEG's proposal and affirmed the JPA's support to use the Arena as the new "home" of a future franchise team of the WNBA.

Mr. Gardner has been working diligently to provide effective terms of a License with AASEG, in order to provide the opportunities for community that bringing a WNBA team will bring, and to ensure that the terms protect the financial well-being of the JPA, and the City and County.

I encourage the Council to affirm and support these efforts.

Respectfully submitted,



Vice Mayor Rebecca Kaplan
Oakland City Councilmember At Large