

## **RESOLUTION NO. 102-2011**

*Adopted October 4, 2011*

### **COMMENDING AND EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO FRED BLACKWELL FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE UPON HIS DEPARTURE FROM THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO**

#### **BASIS FOR RESOLUTION**

1. In August 2007, the Redevelopment Agency of the City and County of San Francisco ("Agency") appointed Fred Blackwell as its Executive Director. Over the last five years, Mr. Blackwell has served with great distinction in pursuing the Agency's mission of promoting community, economic and physical development in blighted neighborhoods. Recently, he announced his resignation from the Agency so that he may become the Assistant City Administrator for the City of Oakland.
2. Under Mr. Blackwell's leadership, the Agency has planned, approved, and participated in major projects that will not only improve the physical environment of some of San Francisco's most disadvantaged communities, but also improve the lives of people who live and work there. Throughout his tenure, he has emphasized that redevelopment should address more than physical improvements; it should promote equitable development providing real opportunities and changes for people and their communities.
3. Mr. Blackwell's commitment to equitable development is reflected in a number of major projects that were approved during his tenure. In 2010, the Agency and City approved the Candlestick Point-Hunters Point Shipyard Phase 2 Project, which will clean up a Superfund Site, bring more than 10,500 new units of housing (of which over 30 percent will be sold or rented at below-market rates), millions of square feet of retail and commercial space, and hundreds of acres of new parks to the Southeastern portion of the City.
4. Mr. Blackwell has played a leading role in the design and implementation of an aggressive public housing revitalization effort (HOPE SF) that has already initiated redevelopment activities for the Hunters View and Alice Griffith Developments and that recently won a \$30.5 million Choice Neighborhood Grant from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

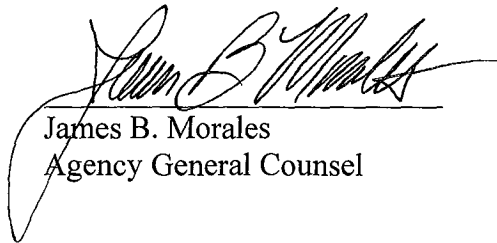
5. Mr. Blackwell proposed and implemented major modifications to the Agency's workforce development program for project area residents who are the "hardest to serve." The program funds job readiness training and "barrier removal," placements in vocational training, and direct job placement in construction jobs and other permanent employment positions. Recently, it has achieved over thirty-five percent (35%) local hire on Agency-sponsored projects.
6. Mr. Blackwell revamped and expanded the Agency's Certificate of Preference Program which provides, among other things, priority to persons displaced by past Agency action for affordable housing assisted by the Agency. Under his direction, the Agency undertook additional outreach efforts to identify those persons who may be eligible for the program and inform them of housing opportunities.
7. Mr. Blackwell helped create new resources to stimulate investment in San Francisco's low income communities by forming a non-profit entity eligible to receive federally-authorized New Market Tax Credits. The San Francisco Community Investment Corporation has already received a tax credit allocation of \$35 million that it has used to provide low-cost financing for qualified projects in low income communities, including College Track, a college preparatory program in the Bayview Hunters Point Project Area working to increase high school graduation, college eligibility, enrollment and college graduation rates among low-income, under-resourced high school students.
8. Mr. Blackwell strongly supported the ambitious efforts of the Agency's housing program to exceed the requirements for affordable housing in redevelopment project areas, to replace thousands of affordable units that were destroyed in the 1960's and 1970's, and to produce hundreds of units of affordable housing annually.
9. Mr. Blackwell has faced one of his biggest challenges over the past year as the Governor and State Legislature considered and finally adopted legislation to dissolve redevelopment agencies and create a voluntary alternative redevelopment program. The legislative debate over redevelopment's future, the uncertainty of the outcome, and the changes in redevelopment's authority have created confusion in the community, with the Agency's development partners, and among staff. Throughout this trying time, Mr. Blackwell has been an effective spokesperson for redevelopment successes, advocated for redevelopment reforms instead of its elimination, and provided the public, Agency partners, and staff with information on the latest developments.

10. Throughout his tenure, Mr. Blackwell has been an effective, accessible, and personable leader of the Agency. His knowledge of community and economic development, connections in the community, and sense of humor have served him well and made him well-regarded and well-liked among staff and in the community.

### **RESOLUTION**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Redevelopment Agency of the City and County of San Francisco, on behalf of its Commissioners, staff, and the City and County of San Francisco, in recognition of the services which he rendered to the Redevelopment Agency of the City and County of San Francisco, does by this Resolution, express to Fred Blackwell its sincerest appreciation of work well done and best wishes in all of his future endeavors.

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**



James B. Morales  
Agency General Counsel