

July 9, 2013

**COMMISSION AGENDA:**

7.9.13 #33

**APPOINTMENT TO THE WORKNET PINELLAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

At this time, it is recommended that the following be appointed to the WorkNet Pinellas Board of Directors to serve the term of July 30, 2013 through June 30, 2015.

<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>CATEGORY</b>
Debra Johnson	Housing Authority

# WORKNET PINELLAS

## Excerpt from Minutes of June 19, 2013

### Call to Order

Chair Lenne' Nicklaus-Ball called the WorkNet Pinellas Board of Directors meeting to order at 11:55 a.m. in the board room of WorkNet Pinellas, 13805 58 Street North, Clearwater, FL 33760.

### Welcome and Introductions

Chair Lenne' Nicklaus-Ball welcomed Board Members and guests.

### Roll Call/Quorum

There was a quorum present with the following Board Members:

Lenne' Nicklaus-Ball, Chair	J. Brad Houser
Tom Bedwell	John Howell
Craig Brethauer (telecom.)	Kelly Kirschner (telecom.)
Eleanor Brooks	Commissioner Janet Long
Sondra Cranford	Mike Meidel
Tony Degin	Mike O'Meara
Dr. David Fries (telecom.)	Maureen O'Neil
Jack Geller	Bill Price
Aundre Green	Paul Toomey (telecom.)

### Board Committee members present:

Council Member Wengay Newton

Board members not participating included Dr. Robert Arnold, Ivan Baker, Lourdes Benedict, Lounell Britt, Larry Deisler, Roland Feijoo, Terri Furr Hoskins, Dr. Michael Grego, Dr. Bill Law, Stephen Sarnoff, Darren Veneri, Rene' Watts, and Nathan Weatherilt.

Others in attendance included President and CEO Ed Peachey, COO Mark Douglass, Director of Customer Service Wayne Feuer, CFO Sue Pagan, Director of Economic Development Services Dr. Kristin Dailey, and Amanda Taylor, Esquire, Trenam, Kemker. Guest included Debra Johnson, board member nominee.

## ***ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS***

### **D-1 Approval of March 20, 2013 Minutes**

The minutes of March 20, 2013, were presented for approval.

**Motion:** Commissioner Janet Long  
**Second:** Jack Geller

*To approve the minutes as presented.*

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**D-2                                      New Board Member Recommendation**

**New Board Member Nomination:**

Debra Johnson, Executive Director  
Pinellas County Housing Authority  
Largo, FL 33778  
Mandatory Category: Housing Authority  
Nominated By: Pinellas County Housing Authority

**Motion:**        Jack Geller  
**Second:**       Bill Price

*Approval to forward Ms. Johnson's nomination to the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners for a two-year appointment, through June 30, 2015, to serve on the WorkNet Pinellas Board of Directors.*

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

## **Action D-2**

### **NEW BOARD MEMBER NOMINATION**

#### **BACKGROUND**

##### New Board Member Nomination:

Debra Johnson, Executive Director  
Pinellas County Housing Authority  
Largo, FL 33778  
Mandatory Category: Housing Authority

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends approval to forward Ms. Johnson's nomination to the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners for a two year appointment, through June 30, 2015, to serve on the WorkNet Pinellas Board of Directors..



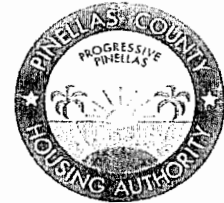
# WorkNet Pinellas

## Board Membership Application

Applicant Name:	Debra Johnson
Job Title:	Executive Director
Employer Name:	Pinellas County Housing Authority
Employer Address:	11479 Ulmerton Road
	Largo, FL 33778
Employer's estimated annual revenue:	36,000,000

Industry Segment please check one:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Manufacturing</li> <li>b. Healthcare</li> <li>c. Communications</li> <li>d. Bio-Tech</li> <li>e. Insurance/Finance</li> <li>f. Construction</li> <li>g. Hospitality/Tourism</li> <li>h. Retail</li> <li>i. Wholesale</li> <li>j. Real Estate</li> <li>k. Accounting/Audit</li> <li>l. Utilities</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> m. Other (specify) Public/Affordable Housing</li> </ul>
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<p>Please attach a brief summary of why you want to serve on the WorkNet Board of Directors and what your expectations are?</p>
<p>Please attach a biography that includes pertinent employment and educational information as well as other activities in which you are engaged (such as serving on other boards, chambers of commerce, hobbies, etc.)</p>



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Debra Johnson  
Executive Director

June 7, 2013

Ms. Lenne' Nicklaus-Ball, Chairman  
WorkNet Pinellas Board of Directors  
13805 58 Street North, Suite 2-140  
Clearwater, FL 33760

Dear Ms. Ball:

During my thirty plus years working with low income families in the Public Housing industry, it has always been my desire to help low-income individuals access educational and job training opportunities, and to eventually begin a career. As executive director of the Pinellas County Housing Authority (PCHA) I have had the privilege of implementing several economic self-sufficiency programs for families living in public and assisted housing where employment is the ultimate final goal. PCHA has also worked with WorkNet Pinellas in hiring disadvantaged youth that trained with us through a WorkNet Pinellas youth job training program. Today, several of those youth are still employed by PCHA, long after the job training program ended. I believe strongly in helping disadvantage youth in our communities, and in providing them opportunities to be gainfully and successfully employed.

I am very humbled to be considered to be a part of the WorkNet Pinellas board and would consider it an honor to serve. If you would like any additional information, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

Debra Johnson  
Executive Director

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Joseph Triolo  
Chairman

Angela Rouson  
Vice Chair

Michael Guju  
Commissioner

Alan Swartz  
Commissioner

Cynthia Wilson  
Commissioner



## Debra Johnson

Debra Johnson is the Executive Director of the Pinellas County Housing Authority and has served in this capacity since July 2009. Ms. Johnson has over thirty years of experience in working with housing authorities and HUD programs to provide housing to low and very-low income families. During this time she also served on the HUD/National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials Recovery Team for the special housing programs of the Atlanta Housing Authority.

Ms. Johnson currently manages a staff of 75 and oversees the operation and administration of public, assisted and affordable housing units that provide housing for over 4500 extremely low to moderate income families; approximately 8500 individuals in Pinellas County. Ms. Johnson is very interested in programs and services to provide job training and opportunities for economic self-sufficiency to disadvantaged youth and their families.

She is currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the Florida Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, is a member of the Low-Income Housing Leadership Network of Pinellas County, the Pinellas County Extension Overall Advisory Committee and is a graduate of Leadership Tampa Bay. She earned a Bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland, College Park, with major coursework in Mass Communications. Ms. Johnson is also a 2004 graduate of the Rutgers University and Public Housing Authorities Directors Association's *Executive Director Education Program* and has attained numerous industry certifications.



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**Debra Johnson**  
**Executive Director**

June 7, 2013

Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners  
c/o Ms. Lenne' Nicklaus-Ball, Chairman  
WorkNet Pinellas Board of Directors  
13805 58 Street North, Suite 2-140  
Clearwater, FL 33760

Dear Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners:

Please accept this letter as our nomination of Ms. Debra Johnson, Executive Director, Pinellas County Housing Authority to serve on the Board of WorkNet Pinellas.

We believe Ms. Johnson, based on her position as Executive Director of the Pinellas County Housing Authority and previous work experience, will be a great addition to the WorkNet Pinellas Board of Directors.

We realize the importance of having the involvement of the Pinellas County Housing Authority as a part of the WorkNet organization and believe Ms. Johnson would be a great addition to the Board.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Joseph Triolo  
Chairman of the Board

cc: Board of Commissioners  
Executive Director

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Joseph Triolo**  
Chairman

**Angela Rouson**  
Vice Chair

**Michael Guju**  
Commissioner

**Alan Swartz**  
Commissioner

**Cynthia Wilson**  
Commissioner

