CRDA | Capital Region Development Authority

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CRDA Venue Committee Meeting
DRAFT Meeting Minutes
June 5th, 2026
2:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present via Microsoft Teams: Committee Chairman Andy Bessette, Board Chairman David Robinson, David Jorgensen, Andrew Diaz-Matos

Staff Present via Microsoft Teams: David Steuber, Anthony L. Lazzaro Jr., Joseph Geremia

Guests Present via Microsoft Teams: Michael Costelli, Michele Hughes, Ben Weiss, Pearson Davis, Aileen Sheluck, Derek Miles

Chairman Bessette called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. and the minutes of the November 7, 2025 meeting were approved on a voice vote.

I. Budget Presentations for the PeoplesBank Arena, Pratt & Whitney Stadium, and the Connecticut Convention Center:

Ben Weiss, general manager of the Arena and the Stadium, presented the proposed fiscal-year 2027 operating budgets for the respective venues, and Michael Costelli, general manager of the Convention Center, presented the proposed fiscal-year 2027 operating budget for the Convention Center. Committee members reviewed the budget assumptions, projected revenues and expenses, and anticipated operational priorities for each facility.

During the discussion, Mr. Weiss and Mr. Costelli emphasized the importance of increasing hotel room inventory in the Hartford market. Both indicated that an additional 600 to 800 hotel rooms would strengthen Hartford's competitiveness and help secure additional conventions, meetings, sporting events, and other large-scale bookings that currently face lodging capacity constraints.

Following the discussion and consideration of the proposed budgets, a motion was made and seconded to forward the respective budgets to the CRDA Board of Directors with a recommendation for approval. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

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