

**ROCHESTER HOUSING AUTHORITY
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
APRIL 27, 2016 12:00 PM
675 WEST MAIN STREET
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14611**



MEMBERS PRESENT

George Moses, Chair
John Page, Vice-Chair
Calvin Lee, Jr., Commissioner
Willie E. Otis, Commissioner
Sara Valencia, Commissioner
Rosemary Rivera, Commissioner
Hershel Patterson, Commissioner

STAFF PRESENT

Shawn Burr
Paul Foti
Sandra Whitney
John Mooney
Linda Stango
Mike Gallo
Melissa Berrien
Ashley Traynum
Janis M. White
Becky Maslowski
Jeanette Pecoraro

OTHERS PRESENT

H Todd Bullard, RHA Legal Counsel
Heather Amidon, AP Safety and Security
Michelle Ashby, Tipping Point
Traci Legonelli, Tipping Point

OTHERS

Chair Moses called the April 2016 RHA Regular Board Meeting to order at 12:04 PM. He noted for the record that notice of this meeting was posted as required by law and there was a quorum present.

1. **Open Forum - Public Comments**

Gwendolyn Davis is having some concerns with the maintenance of her Public Housing unit. She graciously requested that Rochester Housing addresses her concerns. Chair Moses directed Ms. Davis to email her concerns to Shawn Burr for resolution.

2. **Approval of Minutes: March Regular Board Meeting**

Commissioner Lee moved and Commissioner Patterson seconded the motion to approve the minutes for March 2016 Regular Board Meeting. Commissioner Otis, Commissioner Page, and Commissioner Valencia concurred. The motion was passed.

3. Director's Report and Board Approval Requests

- a. Interim Executive Director Shawn Burr presented his director's report on the following topics:
1. Welcoming of staff members attending the Board Meeting.
 2. Our New Director of Leasing Operations will start on May 16th. Ms. Harris will be a great asset to RHA.
 3. Our Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) utilization has increased to 98.63%. This is a direct result of our staff working diligently with participants to get them housed. The National HCV utilization is around 90%.
 4. Our Section Eight Management Assessment Program score is being audited by HUD, we submitted the requested documentation, HUD reviewed and our score of 100% will remain.
 5. Our HCV audit being conducted by OIG is currently wrapping up and we should have the preliminary report by the first week in May. Shawn and his staff met with the two auditors and they commended the staff with their assistance with the audit. RHA is administering the HCV program very well.
 6. We held a Homeowner Forum on 4/21/2016 with participants from our Homeownership program to gather input on the successes and obstacles with the program. There were a total of nine participants and they were all proud and grateful to own their homes. We are using the data collected to make improvements to this program coupled with how to better promote this program.
 7. RHA is hosting a Contractor Open House on 4/28/2016, with 60 contractors confirming they will attend. The presentation will cover topics on our Procurement process, contracting opportunities, HUD regulations, and Section 3.
 8. RHA participated in the Celebrate City Living Expo at City Hall on April 16th. There were 72 vendors and over 500 people that attended the event. RHA presented our programs; inspections, Section 3 and Public Housing. Many thanks to Cathy Lonon, Melissa Berrien and Paul Lindsay for representing RHA.
 9. Shawn Burr, Sandy Whitney, Mike Gallo, and Melissa Berrien attended the NYSPHADA Spring Conference; there were a record number of vendors; and some very informative seminars offered. Tim Kaiser, President of PHADA spoke on lack of adequate HUD funding, which was not good news for the Housing Authorities. There was some good news however; the NYSPHADA Legislative Committee has been working with HCR to develop a process for the State funds to be allocated for PHA's. The Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) Final Rule covered various examples of discrimination and disparate impact. We have begun training all staff on Fair Housing; Law NY has been facilitating that training. We will follow with the revision of our Administrative Plan and ACOP.