

**ROCHESTER HOUSING AUTHORITY  
January 24, 2018  
675 WEST MAIN STREET  
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14611**



**MEMBERS PRESENT**

George Moses, Chair  
John Page, Vice-Chair  
Hershel Patterson, Commissioner  
Calvin Lee Commissioner  
Tynise Edwards  
Willie Otis

**STAFF PRESENT**

John Hill  
Shawn Burr  
Melissa Berrien  
Mike Gallo  
C. Clarke  
Jacquetta Harris  
Cynthia Herriott  
Rashondra Martin  
Linda Stango  
Evhen Tupis  
Janis White  
Diana Colon

**OTHERS PRESENT**

H. Todd Bullard, RHA Legal Counsel  
Heather Amidon  
Jamie Frumusa

Chair Moses called the January Rochester Housing Authority (RHA) Regular Board Meeting to order at 12:00 PM. He noted for the record that notice of this meeting was posted as required by law and there is a quorum present.

1. **Open Forum – Public Comments**

Kawanais Smith lives at Southview Towers; there are several violations in her building, an inspection was done, and she heard rumors that the owners are not going to fix the violations. If Ms. Smith moves from her location, she will lose her Section 8. She will not stop requesting the owners of her building to fix the problems.

Linda Koroma lives in Southeastern Towers; she filed a FHA filing for three years on the building; the air quality is poor, there is no ventilation, people are getting sick, and there is mold in the building. The Tenants gave Conifer a letter, according to HUD, Conifer is supposed to have two meeting; they tried contacting Conifer with all attempts and sent a copy to HUD. This company is receiving 7.2 million from Southeastern Tower and 4.2 million from Southview Towers in tax credits. There are two people in

her home that are disabled tenants with COPD and shortness of breath. RHA passed the ventilation. HUD did an inspection and passed the ventilation. Ms. Koroma had a mid-term inspection that failed, and the owners were required to remove the mold, some of the mold is still in the building. Lancing Reality and Southeast Loop during that time went out their way to harass, intimidate, and to threaten Ms. Koroma and her Family. RHA gave the owners a chance to fix the issues, and instead of fixing the problem they went out their way to evict her. She is worried about the people that are living in Southeast Towers ("76 are Section 8"), and Southview Towers. Their health is being affected by the ventilation and the mold. Per Ms. Koroma, City Code 403.2 indicates that the air circulation must be circulated outside not inside. The Tenants are afraid that RHA is going to fail both buildings and they will be out in the cold like the Dewey Ave situation. This RAD conversion isn't something the tenants want to sign off on. At the City Council meeting, two things are standing out to her, Gentrification and Gendercide. She needs an answer from someone. Ms. Koroma states that in Westchester County, Conifer is currently being investigated by the Attorney General Office. Linda and the tenants at Southeastern Towers and Southview are asking for RHA to help them with their issues. Attorney Bullard would like Linda to send the documentations to RHA for review.

A tenant at Southview Towers' states the elevators are malfunctioning, and the Air Ventilation system is not working properly. She believes they are in danger of being in this building.

Ryan Acuff, of City-wide Tenants Unit in Rochester; their goal is to bring tenants together from all over the city to address patterns of underlining issues. Cedarwood Towers had seven tenants that didn't have heat, and there are a lot of Section 8 tenants that live there. He wants to thank Commissioner River and Mr. Hill for being hands-on and Mr. Hill attending the tenant meeting at Manhattan Square. He would like to know what is going on in their buildings. He is very concerned with inspection process of these units and how does the RAD conversion work for these properties.

Alexandra Popovici is from Smoking Health Coalition under the American Lung Association; she is a Community Engagement Manager; her organization is trying to get in contact with other Section 8 participants or low-income housing residents to keep a smoke free living Environment.

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

Commissioner Otis moved, and Commissioner Edwards seconded the motion to approve the minutes of December 2017, Regular Board Meeting. Commissioner Lee, Commissioner Patterson, Commissioner Page, and Commissioner Rivera, Commissioner Otis, and Commissioner Edwards voted yes. The motion was passed.