

**ROCHESTER HOUSING AUTHORITY
REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**June 26, 2019
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**ROCHESTER HOUSING AUTHORITY
June 26, 2019
675 WEST MAIN STREET
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14611**



MEMBERS PRESENT

Tynise Edwards, Acting Chair
Joanne Larson, Commissioner
Calvin Lee, Commissioner
Hershel Patterson, Commissioner
Rosalie Remarais, Commissioner
Florine Cummings, Commissioner

STAFF PRESENT

Shawn Burr
Melissa Berrien
Sinclair Carrington
Mike Gallo
Jacquetta Harris
Sara Jaouen
Rashondra Martin
Linda Stango
Evhen Tupis
Janis White

OTHERS PRESENT

H. Todd Bullard, RHA Legal Counsel

Acting Board Chair, Tynise Edwards, called the June Rochester Housing Authority (RHA) Regular Board Meeting to order at 12:00 PM. She noted for the record that notice of this meeting was posted as required by law and that there was a quorum present.

1. Open Forum – Public Comments

Island Jones stated that she has lived at Luther Circle for approximately three years. She is not happy with her living situation. She lives in a two-bedroom unit and is under-housed, with three young children ranging in ages from one to eight and another due in August. Ms. Jones is aware that she may not meet the reasonable accommodation policy from HUD. However, she has two of the children sleeping in her room, and the fourth child will be as well. She received a note from her son's doctor stating that he is not to share a room with any of his siblings. Ms. Jones stated that the Director of Public Housing told her she could start looking for other housing, but there are other people on the waitlist, and she is aware of HUD rules.

Ms. Jones also discussed that the units are non-smoking but has witnessed her neighbor smoking. She complained that there is a smoke scent in her bathroom. The smoking in the units was reported to security, RHA staff, and the PH Director. Ms. Jones stated that she is following the rules, and the other tenants are not, which isn't fair to her.

Further, Ms. Jones said that when she moved to Luther Circle, there was an infestation of mice, and she wasn't pleased. RHA sent the exterminators, but she doesn't believe they did a good job. She stated that RHA should have the exterminator out annually, not only when there is an issue, as there are families and children that live at Luther Circle and it's not fair to live like that. Her unit has a roach and mouse problem, and she is not happy about this. She is afraid that roaches may crawl into her children's ears. She stated that her Property Manager witnessed her roach issues and said that she is under-housed. She read some guidelines online which state that tenants should live in a comfortable environment. She doesn't think that because she lives in Public Housing, her family should have to live under these conditions. Ms. Jones would like RHA to do what is necessary to get rid of the roach and mouse problem. She wants to talk to Mr. Burr to share her experiences with him. She doesn't think it's fair that she is being ignored. She is in a crisis. She appreciates the Board taking the time to listen to her.

2. Approval of Minutes: May Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Lee moved, and Commissioner Patterson seconded, the motion to approve the minutes of the May 2019 Regular Board Meeting. Commissioner Patterson, Commissioner Cummings, Commissioner Lee, Commissioner Larson, Commissioner Remarais, and Commissioner Edwards voted yes. The motion was passed.

3. Director's Report and Board Approval Requests

a. Acting Executive Director, Shawn Burr, presented his Director's report as follows:

Mr. Burr reported on the follow-up items from the previous month's Board meeting: The Laundry Rooms inquiry from Commissioner Patterson. He emailed the Board Members on June 14, 2019, with the updated timeline. The RHA staff training schedule from 2016-2019 was sent to RHA's General Counsel as requested. Commissioner Cummings was provided information regarding her inquiry about the YAMTEP on June 20, 2019, from Melissa Berrien. Mr. Burr and staff met with Connected Communities to discuss RHA's RAD Project. They brainstormed ways to pool resources in efforts to improve the Emma and Beechwood neighborhoods. Connected Communities is currently conducting a parcel by parcel assessment of vacant lots in the Beechwood neighborhood.

Mr. Burr, Sara Jaouen, and Mike Gallo met with two engineers from RGRTA to discuss increasing their transit service and interest in putting bus shelters on some of RHA properties. The engineers presented their plan involving University Tower and Lena Gantt sites, and the pros and cons were discussed. It looks feasible and would be a nice benefit for RHA residents, but logistics will need to be worked out. Mr. Burr will be reaching out to HUD to see what will need to be done concerning complying with the ACC.