

**ROCHESTER HOUSING AUTHORITY
November 18, 2020
675 WEST MAIN STREET
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14611**



MEMBERS PRESENT

Tynise Edwards, Chairperson
Rosalie Remarais, Vice-Chairperson
Florine Cummings, Resident Commissioner
Hershel Patterson, Resident Commissioner
Duwaine T. Bascoe, New Commissioner
Hank Rubin, Commissioner

STAFF PRESENT

Melissa Berrien
Shawn Burr
Sinclair Carrington
Diana Colon
Jacquetta Harris
Sarafina Hilaire
Shawanna Lawrence
Mark Plantholt
Mariam Rodriguez-Machuca
James Senger
Shelby Simpson
Linda Stango
Evhen Tupis

OTHERS PRESENT

H. Todd Bullard, RHA Legal Counsel
Josh Jensen, Tipping Point Communications

Commissioner Tynise Edwards called the August Rochester Housing Authority (RHA) Regular Board Meeting to order at 12:01 pm. It was 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

There were no Public Comments.

2. Approval of Minutes: October 2020 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Remarais moved, and Commissioner Cummings seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the October 2020 Regular Board Meeting. Commissioner Patterson, Commissioner Cummings, Commissioner Remarais, Commissioner Edwards, and Commissioner Rubin voted yes. The motion was passed unanimously

3. Swearing in of Board Commissioner Chairperson, Tynise Edwards

Commissinor Duwaine T. Bascoe, Esq. took the Oath of Office

4. Director's Report and Board Approval Requests

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

Mr. Burr **CONTINUES** to recognize Staff across the Authority who continue to go above and beyond to ensure our high quality of services are maintained and that our resident's and participant's needs are taken care of during this Pandemic. They have been doing a remarkable job! As we are "re-opening," great efforts are being made in the planning and execution. Procurement and Maintenance have been extremely helpful.

Mr. Burr shared our employee recognition day was October 26th and was appreciated by staff. A special thank you to all Board Commissioners who attended!

Mr. Burr shared that our next steps for the NYS POP grant will be working with our consultant to move the project forward once they iron out contract details with Enterprise.

Mr. Burr shared that Trillium's COVID testing/Primary Care services for our residents continue with the November schedule moving along.

Mr. Burr reported our "Reopening Committee" has been very busy developing plans for RHA to "reopen" in phases. PHASE III is underway, and all staff is back "in the office." We are working out the kinks to implement temperature checks as part of our daily screening process, which has been a big challenge. The Committee is addressing the opening "doors" will be open to the public, but with the current trends in increased positive cases, we are reluctant to do so. Continued kudos to Shawanna for taking the lead on this and the countless hours she and the committee have put in.

Mr. Burr reported that discussions continue on the PIH Notices that HUD has issued and eligible expenses we are focusing monies on. It looks like we won't have any difficulty in spending the CARE'S Act funds for Public Housing, as Sinclair has reported. Jacquetta and her team have developed some creative ways to allocate those funds for Section 8 programs we hope to implement on 11/1. We extended the landlord incentive program, and with increased awareness, more landlords are participating. Finance staff are working on the reporting requirements and will ensure we remain in compliance with the tracking and reporting.

Mr. Burr reported that staff have been involved in several community projects and will report on them in their Board reports. RMAPI Housing Committee, City FEC Program Initiative, Connected Communities Housing Committee, Private Sector Rental Market Study, and Benefits Project are a few that are in the works.

Mr. Burr reported that RHA is participating in the 21-Day Racial Equity Challenge. This initiative is a powerful opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of how inequity and racism affect our lives and community. It's imperative we rise to the challenge to