

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



MEMBERS PRESENT

Rosalie Remarais, Acting Chairperson
Florine Cummings, Resident Commissioner
Hershel Patterson, Resident Commissioner
Duwaine T. Bascoe, New Commissioner

STAFF PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

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

Commissioner Rosalie Remarais called the December Rochester Housing Authority (RHA) Regular Board Meeting to order at 12:03 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, during the Public Comment period. During the meeting a Public Comment was received from Friends of the African Union smartWISE Community Reinvestment Coalition of Monroe County; it was delivered in person to Rochester Housing Authority's administration building on December 16, 2020. It was a 2-page document that was scanned and emailed to all of the Board Commissioners.

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

Commissioner Patterson moved, and Commissioner Cummings seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the November 2020 Regular Board Meeting. Commissioner Patterson, Commissioner Cummings, Commissioner Remarais, and Commissioner Patterson voted yes. The motion passed four to zero

3. Director's Report and Board Approval Requests

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

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

Mr. Burr shared that Holiday season, we all need to be diligent in maintaining each other's safety. We have a plan/procedure developed for allowing two visitors for residents at our high-rises but will need to be sure that local conditions are safe to implement. Staff and AP Security have done a great job working together on this.

Mr. Burr shared that we met with our NYS POP grant consultant on 12/10 and "kicked off" the project. e will continue to update at the Project Planning meeting.

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

Mr. Burr reported our "Reopening Committee" has been very busy developing plans for RHA to "reopen" in phases. 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, this has been put on hold, but the team will continue to plan for it. Continued kudos to Shawanna for taking the lead on this and the countless hours she and the committee have put in. As we near a **RED Zone**, we will begin going back to having staff that can work from home effectively, do so on certain days.

Mr. Burr reported that staff continue to be involved in several community projects and 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. I really appreciate their efforts in representing RHA on critical projects in our community.

Mr. Burr reported that RHA participated 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 improve our community and ourselves in our commitment to implement antiracist practice.

Mr. Burr reported that Representative Marcia Fudge of Ohio is expected to be nominated to lead the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. President-elect Joe Biden's transition team has not confirmed Rep. Fudge's nomination for HUD Secretary, but it has been reported by a number of news agencies. Rep. Fudge had been discussed as a potential candidate for the Department of Agriculture Secretary, but it appears that