

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HOUSING AUTHORITY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

FINAL

**MINUTES
Thursday, August 18, 2016**

The Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia Housing Authority (“DCHA”) held an emergency meeting at DCHA Headquarters, 1133 North Capitol St., NE, Washington, DC 20002

I. CALL TO ORDER

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Terri Thompson, Chairman
Clarence Mobley
Jose Ortiz Gaud
Nakeisha Neal Jones
Brian Kenner

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Ken Grossinger, Vice Chairman
Kenneth Council
Shelore Fisher
Aquarius Vann-Ghasri
William Slover
Frank Lancaster

Chairman Thompson called the meeting to order at 12:14 pm and asked for a roll call to determine a quorum.

II. ROLL CALL

Commissioner Ken Grossinger – No response
Commissioner Kenneth Council – No response
Commissioner Shelore Fisher – No response
Commissioner Brian Kenner – “Here”
Commissioner Frank Lancaster – No response
Commissioner Clarence Mobley – “Present”
Commissioner Nakeisha Neal Jones – “Here”
Commissioner Jose Ortiz Gaud – “Here”
Commissioner William Slover – No response
Commissioner Aquarius Vann-Ghasri – No response
Chairman Terri Thompson – “Present”

A quorum was recognized with five Commissioners present.

III. RESOLUTIONS

PUBLIC COMMENT

PRESENTATION AND BOARD DISCUSSION OF THE RESOLUTIONS

Chairman Thompson asked Director Todman to start with a description of resolution 16-14 and then move to public comment regarding the resolution.

Resolution 16-14 To Authorize Pre-Development Financing for Barry Farm Redevelopment

Director Todman gave an overview of Resolution 16-14. Director Todman explained that the resolution allows the Executive Director to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Deputy Mayor of Planning and Economic Development (DMPED) to receive \$13 million for predevelopment action and relocation for Barry Farm. The resolution allows DCHA to engage the development partners and will show what Phase I will look like including relocation. Director Todman also stated that in June the Board asked for additional information as well as in July. The Board received the information that was requested.

[At this point in the meeting, those members of the public who signed up to speak were given the opportunity to address the Board on the resolutions under consideration. Residents had five minutes to speak and non-residents had three minutes to speak.]

The Residents and Nonresident who signed up to speak are as follows:

Schyler Pondexter Moore – a Highland resident stated that she received 2 days' notice regarding the emergency Board meeting. She urged the Commissioners to vote no for resolution 16-14. She stated that she felt the resolution did nothing to protect the residents of Barry Farm. She stated that residents at Barry Farm need repairs, not vouchers and the New Communities initiative is wrong. She also stated that a resident at Barry Farm has been living without hot water and basic repairs. She held up a petition that she said are signatures of Barry Farm residents who are against resolution 16-14.

Paulette Matthews – a resident of Barry Farm stated that she wants the resolution to be tabled and there should be no rush to pass resolution 16-14. She stated that the property maintenance should be done within the units at Barry Farm. She said that she saw a unit where the ceiling had fallen in and the next day someone was at her home for a unit inspection. She stated that she felt intimidated because of the timing of her unit inspection. She said the grass around the property is better and she is thankful that her son is now employed helping to maintain the grass at Barry Farm.

Margaret Dwyer – a nonresident stated that as a tax payer and resident of DC she wants to reject the passing of resolution 16-14 and stated the residents of Barry Farm deserve basic human rights.

Michelle Hamilton – a Barry Farm resident stated that other Barry Farm residents should speak out on their wants. She said that she personally got 90 signatures on the petition to reject resolution 16-14. She also stated that redevelopment of Barry Farm should be done while keeping residents on site so that they can stay and that more maintenance and repairs are needed. She also stated that some residents cannot read or write and many do not understand their options and aren't prepared to move.

Rhonda Edwards-Hines – a resident of Barry Farm and the Resident Council President stated that she was called by Ms. Todman on Tuesday afternoon to ensure she was aware of the emergency Board meeting. She stated that she had several questions regarding the resolution and gave Director Todman the opportunity to answer them. Director Todman stated that the Far Southeast Family Strengthening Collaborative has separate funding and is not part of the funds in resolution 16-14, the choice grant had different criteria when HUD approved Sheridan Terrace and Matthews Memorial and that Phase I is still planned to begin along Sumner Road at Barry Farm. Ms. Edwards-Hines stated that she doesn't want resolution 16-14 to be voted on at this time.

Aja Taylor – a nonresident and advocacy director for *Bread for the City* asked why residents weren't given more notice regarding the emergency Board meeting. She stated that she thought there is no indication that DCHA has a right to return plan as part of Resolution 16-06 that was passed by the Board. She stated that Barry Farm residents are calling for a delay on the vote for resolution 16-14. Director Todman stated that the funds of resolution 16-14 will allow for one on one work with households to see what works best for relocation for that household. Commissioner Mobley thanked Ms. Taylor for her comments and stated that he wants to understand the needs of the residents.

Osa Obaseki – a nonresident and District Ward 8 resident stated that he has met with residents of Barry Farm and specifically consulted with a 14-year old resident and asked him to express himself regarding the situation at Barry Farm. He stated the 14 year-old did that in verses as an attempt to fight for his family. Mr. Obaseki requested that the Commissioners vote against resolution 16-14.

Will Merrifield – a nonresident with the *Washington Legal Clinic* stated that he represents residents who are losing their homes when developments are being demolished for luxury housing. He stated there is never one for one replacement of public housing and asked why money is being spent demolishing affordable housing when the city is in a housing crisis. He stated that DCHA should be focusing on making high quality public housing.

Hannah Sholder – a nonresident and Fair Housing Specialist in the DC area stated that Barry Farm residents need an inclusive process for redevelopment. She also stated that the masterplan approved by the zoning commission is being appealed and urged the Commissioners to vote no on resolution 16-14.

Chairman Thompson recognized that there were not a majority of Board members present and the vote will be tabled for resolution 16-14. She stated that she wanted to

make sure that communication was clear with all the Board members regarding resolution 16-14.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Thompson announced that the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 14, 2016 at DCHA Headquarters 1133 North Capitol St., NE Washington, DC 20002

Meeting adjourned at 1:32 pm.