

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

**DRAFT Meeting Minutes  
Committee on Bylaws and Statutory Updates  
1275 K Street NW Suite 1000  
Tuesday, January 29, 2019  
(Final minutes will be published once approved)**

Commissioner Neil Albert, Chairman  
Commissioner LeJuan Strickland  
Commissioner Nakeisha Neal Jones (via telephone)

**COMMITTEE  
COMMISSIONER  
MEMBERS  
PRESENT**

None

**COMMITTEE  
COMMISSIONER  
MEMBER ABSENT**

Commissioner Antonio Taliaferro  
Commissioner Jose Ortiz Gaud

**OTHER  
COMMISSIONERS  
PRESENT**

The first meeting of the Committee on Bylaws and Statutory Updates convened at approximately 9:16 am on January 29, 2019. Ken Slaughter, General Counsel stated that the Office of the General Counsel has been working on proposed changes to the DCHA Board bylaws. He further stated that he realizes that some of the proposed changes will spark conversation and feedback from the Board and will likely require further discussion for consensus. Anne Elliott, Assistant General Counsel presented the Committee with a PowerPoint of the proposed changes. The first proposed change she addressed was to go to the City Council to change the current quorum of 5 to a majority of 6 and to allow for flexibility of a quorum if the Board drops below its 11 members. There was discussion regarding the minimum attendance requirement for in person attendance to meet the quorum. The Committee agreed to go to the Council to request a change in the quorum to a majority. The next proposed change addressed was for contract authority that is currently set at \$250,000.00 which can be inefficient to bring to the Board especially with the future of redevelopment. The proposal is to increase the amount to \$750,000.00 for Board approval. There was discussion regarding the distinction in operating and capital dollars and Chairman Albert suggested an increase to \$500,000.00 for capital and to keep \$250,000.00 for operating contracts. Mr. Slaughter introduced the next proposed change of term limits. The proposal is to restrict all Commissioners to two term limits. Commissioner Strickland asked if the Chair could be exempt from the term limits to benefit the Board with knowledge that would possibly be lost. Commissioner Neal Jones asked what the Board looks like now. It was stated that currently there are no term limits for Board members. There was discussion regarding term limits for elected Board members. Commissioner Taliaferro stated that he felt that term limits would restrict the wants of the resident voters and that there should be no term limits. Commissioner Neal Jones stated she felt that it would be difficult to

**NEEDED DCHA  
STATUTORY CHANGES**

impose term limits on only part of the Board. Chairman Albert requested OGC check in with the Mayor's office and Chief of Staff on term limits. Director Garrett suggested staggering terms for resident elected Board members. There was also discussion regarding ensuring that residents who reside in properties that are converted to RAD still have the same rights to run in the elections for Board members.

Ms. Elliott introduced the proposed rules of decorum for Board members during meetings that are based on the DC Council Rules and Decorum which include no private discourse or distracting activity during meetings, keep conversation focused on the matter before the Board, and not to challenge the motives of other Commissioners. She further added that rules of decorum for the public are currently read before each Board meeting by the Chair and would be included. Commissioner Neal Jones asked what the time line is for the proposed changes. Mr. Slaughter stated that a draft of proposed changes would be provided to the Committee in a week and another meeting of this Committee should take place before the March 2019 Board meeting. Chairman Albert added that he brought before the Board previously the idea of forming an Executive Committee and asked to revisit the formation of that Committee. He stated he thought the Committee would be valuable to act in emergency situations. There was some question as to who would make up the members. Director Garrett suggested that the Chairs of the standing Committees make up the members for the Executive Committee.

Ms. Elliott then finally introduced the Commissioner discipline procedures. The current bylaws allow for Commissioner to be removed from the Board for misconduct. There was discussion regarding the current forms of discipline including reprimand, censure and removal from office. Proposed changes will be brought back to the Board for review.

Commissioner Ortiz Gaud requested to call in or video conference for the February Board meeting. Commissioner Strickland requested the same as they will both be away due to prior obligations.

Commissioner Taliaferro expressed his desire to do more to assist residents who come to him with complaints. Mr. Slaughter directed Commissioner Taliaferro to go to Director Garrett with all of his residents and/or staff issues for him to respond directly.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:22 am.

## **GENERAL BYLAW UPDATES**

## **COMMISSIONER REMOVAL PROCEDURE**

## **COMMISSIONER ISSUES**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT**