



Minutes for Committee on Resident Services October 29, 2019

10/29/2019 | 12:16 PM - 01:30 PM - Eastern Time (US and Canada)

1133 N Capitol Street NE Executive Director's Conference Room

Commissioners (5)

Franselene St. Jean; Bill Slover; Aquarius Vann-Ghasri; Richard Congo; Antonio Taliaferro

Members Absent: Commissioner Neal Jones & Commissioner Council

Opening Remarks

Chairman Vann-Ghasri opened the meeting at approximately 12:16 pm and read the Committee profile.

Draft Minutes of June 27, 2019

The draft minutes of June 27, 2019 were accepted as final.

CSC Laundry Services Contract Agreements Discussion

Chairman Vann- Ghasri stated that Mr. Fred Douglass from Douglass & Boykin, a law firm that is contracted with DCHA has worked with resident councils in the past on their laundry contracts. Mr. Douglass thanked Chairman Vann-Ghasri for the invitation to attend and introduced two members of his team.

Commissioner Slover stated that DCHA needs one master contract with the resident councils because there is such disparity among them. Kenneth Slaughter, General Counsel stated that issue has been out a while and OGC drafted a master license agreement. Mr. Slaughter stated that he will take responsibility for his office not finalizing and will brief Director Garrett on the issue as he was not here during the time the issue was brought up. Director Garrett stated that he is in support of getting this effort completed for a standard license agreement. Mr. Slaughter also stated that resident councils are independent of DCHA and we want to represent all of them with one uniform contract. We asked outside counsel to assist with this effort and they cannot litigate on behalf of the resident councils.

Commissioner St. Jean stated that she has concerns regarding cutting funding for the apprenticeship program. Director Garrett stated that the program will be scaled down to ensure individuals get hired. We still want them to have long-term employment. Commissioner Slover suggested a hiring mechanism from outside companies willing to hire our residents. Mr. Brian Harris, Interim Director of Resident

Services (ORS) stated that we indeed work with outside companies and have partnerships with the Chamber of Commerce and other partners to potentially employ our residents.

Commissioner Slover stated that he would like to see a written policy on how resident councils are supposed to operate. Joanne Wallington, Director of Audit and Compliance (OAC) explained the process of how resident council's funds are reviewed and what they are asked to produce along with the timing and recommendations. Chairman Vann-Ghasri stated that she would like to see any resident council leader who is accused of mishandling funds welcome an audit.

There was discussion regarding resident council audits and expenditure of the vending funds. Ms. Wallington stated that she would provide the policy to the Board.

There was discussion regarding the RFP for service providers. Byron Pugh, Deputy Director of ORS provided the Committee with an update of where that process stands. Larry Williams, Director of Property Management Operations (PMO) who was the Director of ORS at the time the RFP for service providers was initiated stated that he believed we can still get it done.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:30 pm.