

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

**DRAFT Meeting Minutes
Committee on Resident Services
Executive Director's Conference Room
Thursday, March 30, 2017
(DRAFT-amended 3-3-17)**

Commissioner Aquarius Vann-Ghasri, Chairman
Commissioner Kenneth Council
Commissioner Shelore Fisher
Commissioner Bill Slover
Commissioner Nakeisha Neal Jones

**COMMITTEE
COMMISSIONER
MEMBERS
PRESENT**

Commissioner Frank Lancaster (arrived late)

**COMMITTEE
COMMISSIONER
MEMBER ABSENT**

Chairman Vann-Ghasri opened the meeting at 12:09 pm and read the function of the Committee of Resident Services. *She added, "though the dedicated services and commitment of the workforce of the District of Columbia residents, Resident Leaders of the past and the future has remained on a progressive posture. The support of residents is vital as we demonstrate that residents are investors and stockholders of our communities."*

**BRIEFING/DISCUSSION
RESIDENT
PARTICIPATION FUNDS
UPDATE**

The discussion began with Director Todman summarizing where we are now. Referring to handouts, 42 Resident Councils were eligible to receive FY 2016 Resident Participation Funds.

- 16 have applied for and received funds;
- 11 are represented by the Office of Resident Services as the fiscal agent;
- 14 are not identified in either category;

Commissioner Neal Jones wanted to know what determines eligibility and are there some RC's that do not apply for funds? The reply noted that HUD regulations are the guideline for determining eligibility. Commissioner Vann Ghasri asked about outreach to encourage RC's to apply. She was assured that staff from ORS provides encouragement and assistance by holding information meetings and direct assistance when requested.

Commissioner Vann Ghasri commended Director Todman and staff for the positive way in which the issue of RC's is handled. The discussion about officers of the RC's and those positions that were not filled and procedures followed to complete that process. Bylaws of the RCs were also discussed and the fact that there is no uniformity. Structurally there are five officers. If there are questions, DLA Piper is a law firm that offers free legal services. Commissioner Vann Ghasri suggested that the annual retreat event for Resident Councils sponsored by the ORS include a workshop on irregularities that might occur in the structuring of a RC. A notebook is produced for the event and it was also suggested that ones used in the past could be the basis for a comparison to draft a report of what worked in the past. The source of information to determine the number of units on a

property was asked by Commissioner Council as there is a difference in the actual number and what is reported at Stoddert/ Ft. Dupont which makes a difference in the amount approved for the RC. The office of Finance in consultation with Mr. Bovelleville, Deputy Director, Operations was identified. Director Todman clarified that non-dwelling units may not be funded for this purpose by HUD. Commissioner Slover noted the significant challenge for DCHA to try to handle 32 different sets of bylaws and suggested that there should be an effort at uniformity. Commissioner Neal Jones noted that when your organization is part of a bigger national organization you follow the national standards. Commissioner Vann Ghasri said that the model followed was created by Kimi Gray.

Director Todman identified other handouts in the folders

- The Follow Up
- Service Providers Listing
- Benning Terrace profile

then asked if there was any other information the committee wants to see.

Commissioner Slover noted the difference in occupancy (old-941) (current-845) requesting an explanation for the big difference. Director Todman offered a possible change in bedroom size but would check it out. What metric was used to create the Identified Service Gaps? In addition to the Urban Institute data assessment, ORS Navigator staff intelligence and feedback from residents were used. Commissioner Neal Jones asked about workforce. The reply was that the workforce initiative for public housing is handled through Section 3. The goal is to have a profile for each site probably updated twice a year. A request was made to add occupancy and income to give a good snapshot.

There are no documents for this section of the agenda as the effort is to get a sense of what the practice will be. The discussion was about funds from the laundry and the snack machines with the laundry being the primary focus for the purposes of this discussion. It was noted that most senior properties have laundry rooms and the focus today is to get a uniform policy.

It was suggested that the May committee meeting include a conference call with Commissioner Asia Coney who would be asked to explain what they do in Philadelphia. It was suggested that the April committee meeting would include some seniors with laundry rooms, Resident Council leaders, CSC licensees, to get their input/feedback; develop a policy and put the issue to bed.

Commissioner Vann Ghasri wants the name of the committee to include the word "initiatives" which Director Todman indicated could be done in a formal manner at the April meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:32 pm.

**VENDING POLICY
USE OF FUNDS
UPDATE**

**COMMISSIONERS'
ISSUES**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS
AND ADJOURNMENT**