DC HOUSING AUTHORITY ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Agency appoints nearly 20-year public housing veteran Keith L. Pettigrew following a national search

WASHINGTON (Sept. 13, 2023) — The District of Columbia Housing Authority (DCHA) Stabilization and Reform (STAR) Board today announced the appointment of veteran public housing administrator and D.C. native Keith L. Pettigrew as Executive Director.

Pettigrew currently serves as CEO and President of Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority (ARHA), a position he has held since 2017. Pettigrew’s new role marks a return to his roots: he began the public housing portion of his career at DCHA in 2000, serving on a receivership team. He later held several management positions in the agency, including serving as the Senior Management Advisor and Senior Deputy Director for Human Resources.

Pettigrew will assume the position on Nov. 1, 2023. Until that time, Interim Executive Director Dorian Jenkins, who has led DCHA in a temporary capacity since July 2023 will continue serve in the role.

“The STAR Board would like to express its sincerest thanks to Dorian Jenkins for his commitment and willingness to serve in what has been a most challenging time for DCHA,” said Board Chairman Raymond Skinner. “In Keith L. Pettigrew, DCHA has found a driven leader who understands our past and has a clear vision for a better future. Keith is a D.C. native, a product of D.C. public housing and a graduate of D.C. Public Schools. He has committed his life to serving the public, and to meeting the need for public housing. He has proven himself time and again to be focused, creative and tenacious in his pursuit to resolve complex issues and create lasting positive change. We have no doubt he will bring this to DCHA.”

The STAR Board led the national search in collaboration with executive search firm Gans, Gans & Associates (GGA). Community and stakeholder input was an active part of the search. GGA received more than 50 applications for the position. After an initial screening process, GGA referred a dozen candidates to the Board. A Board subcommittee conducted an initial round of interviews and recommended finalists who were interviewed by the full Board. The Board confirmed Pettigrew’s appointment during today’s meeting.

“Returning to lead DCHA, the housing authority in which I grew up, is both the culmination of my professional career and a very personal milestone,” Pettigrew said. “I owe this to my mother, who raised me and my siblings to always help people. I have a passion for working in public housing because it provides me the opportunity to improve the quality of life for people in need. I look forward to meeting and working with the staff, Board, residents, fellow Washingtonians and stakeholders to make DCHA a model for public housing. And I hope to be an example for DCHA residents that through hard work you can achieve your goals.”

At ARHA, Pettigrew is responsible for a diverse portfolio of housing choice vouchers and housing units including traditional public housing, mod-rehab units, tax-credit properties, and market rate units. Under
Pettigrew, ARHA has been designated by HUD as a High Performing organization for HCVP programs for several years.

From 2009 to 2014, Pettigrew served as the Deputy General Manager for Operations for the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) where he was a member of a team responsible for the turnaround of HANO from a “troubled” agency under administrative receivership to “standard” performer in just three years. Pettigrew has also lent his expertise as a subject matter expert, conducting operational assessments, and providing technical assistance for various Housing Authorities and Community Development Agencies throughout the country. These included Harrisburg, PA, Cincinnati, OH, Honolulu, HI, Brownsville, TX, Amarillo, TX, Gary, IN, and Pinal County, AZ.

In addition to his housing experience, Pettigrew has served in various management positions in the District of Columbia Government, including Labor Relations Officer, the Assistant Director of Personnel and Deputy General Manager for a federal receivership of the Division of Transportation. In that role, Pettigrew led a team that transformed the Public Schools Division of Transportation from being considered one of the worst agencies in the country to one of the best. This achievement was highlighted in the September 2008 Issue of School Bus Magazine.

Pettigrew earned his bachelor’s degree in sociology, a master’s degree in sociology with a concentration in law and a law degree, all from The George Washington University.

Headshot available on request. For more information about DC Housing Authority, go to www.dchousing.org.

###

About DC Housing Authority
The District of Columbia Housing Authority (DCHA) is committed to providing safe, affordable, and quality housing to the residents of the District of Columbia. The agency emphasizes fostering a collaborative work environment to meet the highest expectations of the affordable housing industry. With a focus on innovation and community development, DCHA strives to improve the lives of individuals and families by creating sustainable and thriving communities. Learn more at our website about DCHA and the work that the agency is doing to impact the residents of Washington, D.C.