

February 2016 MINUTES

HOWARD COUNTY HOUSING COMMISSION

February 16, 2016

Gateway Building, 6751 Columbia Gateway Dr., 3rd Floor Board Room, Columbia, MD

HCHC Members Present

Carole R. MacPhee, *Chairperson*
Donzella Curtis
Ian Kennedy
Christopher W. Oxenham
Maurice M. Simpkins

HCHC Members Absent/Excused

Regina Stone-Mitchell
Stacy L. Spann

Staff Present

Thomas P. Carbo, *Executive Director*
Ada D. Best, *Chief Financial Officer*
Samuel P. Tucker, *Chief of Rental Assistance Programs*
Famebridge Witherspoon, *Community Relations Specialist*
Lisa O'Brien, *Sr. Assistant County Solicitor*
Constance A. Tucker, *Sr. Assistant County Solicitor*

Guest/Visitors Present

N/A

Recording Secretary

Kukia Burroughs

I. CALL TO ORDER 6:00 P.M.

The meeting of the Howard County Housing Commission was held on Tuesday, February 16, 2016, at the Gateway Office of the Housing Department. This meeting was called to order at 6:15 P.M. by Chairperson Carole R. MacPhee. A quorum was present to conduct business.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Curtis and seconded by Commissioner Kennedy to approve the *February Agenda* as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

III. APPROVAL OF JANUARY MINUTES

The minutes for January's meeting was previously mailed and electronically sent to Commissioners for their review and comment. A motion was made by Commissioner Oxenham and seconded by Commissioner Kennedy to approve the January 19, 2016 Minutes as submitted. The motion passed 5-0.

IV. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

There were no guests present.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Director's Report and the MIHU Report were included in the packet previously mailed to Commissioners. The Director's Report reflects on how Congress is currently considering a bill that would make substantial changes to HUD's public housing, housing choice voucher and project-based rental assistance programs. The Executive Director was available to answer

questions on the reports. The Director's Report and more information can be found on the County's website located under the Housing and Community Development's banner at www.howardcountymd.gov.

VI. HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM COORRDINATOR'S REPORT

Samuel P. Tucker, Chief of Rental Assistance Programs, was present to discuss the Housing Choice Voucher Coordinator's Report. The current utilization rate is at 97%, with Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) totaling \$844,058 for the month of February. The Housing Choice Voucher Program received an under payment of funding from HUD for the month of February. The under payment was the result of a discrepancy in the amount of Net Restricted Assets currently held by the Commission. The Housing Choice Voucher staff will be contacting HUD this week to correct the problem.

VII. DISCUSSION: FY 2017 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

The FY 2017 Budget is only preliminary and is subject to be revised by the Commission before final approval. The Executive Director facilitated a presentation highlighting several aspects of the Budget that depicts revenues, expenses, the bottom line and things to look forward to. The revenues total about \$35 million, which includes \$13 million from properties, \$800,000 in administrative fees and \$800,000 in LIHTCs and ground rents. This Budget assumes there will be no new acquisitions and that the annual Come Home to Howard County Housing Fair will move with the County's new "Office of Housing and Community Partnerships" that would be established within the Department of Citizen Services. The final FY 2017 Howard County Housing Commission Budget will be available in May 2016. Ada Best, Chief Financial Officer, was available to answer questions.

VIII. UPDATE: REORGANIZATION/RELOCATION

Council Bill No. 12-2016 that proposes to transfer the housing functions currently performed by the Department of Housing and Community Development to the Department of Citizen Services still has a few things to figure out such as should the Commission continue to share County vehicles or lease their own, and should the Commission share some of their cost with other County's that use the same software currently being used. The Commission has been working with the County to find ways to make this split between the departments a smooth transition. The Commission is also suggesting that the County hold a little reserve money just in case hard times occur. These discussions are ongoing between the County and the Commission.

IX. MEMBER COMMENTS

The Legislative Public Hearing will be held on March 7, 2016, at the George Howard Building at 7:00 P.M.

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X. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Oxenham and seconded by Commissioner Kennedy to adjourn the February 16, 2016, Meeting of the Howard County Housing Commission. The meeting adjourned at 6:44 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kukia Burroughs
Recording Secretary

Upcoming Meeting:
HCHC – Tuesday, March 15, 2016