

## **Board Matters**

**May 9, 2024**

### **Commissioner Vacancies**

Chairman Stanton informed her colleagues that Commissioners Robinson and Solomon have completed their service to the Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority (FCRHA). She requested that staff prepare a resolution commending Commissioner Solomon for his sixteen years of service. Additionally, Chairman Stanton stated that she anticipates that both commissioner vacancies will be filled in the coming weeks.

### **Congratulations to Deputy County Attorney Cynthia Bailey**

Chairman Stanton announced that in April, the Local Government Attorneys of Virginia, Inc. presented Deputy County Attorney Cynthia Bailey with the prestigious A. Robert Cherin Award. She stated that for approximately 25 years, Cynthia has served with distinction in the Fairfax County Office of the County Attorney (OCA). Cynthia has overseen efforts on affordable housing, land use, procurement, public records, and more. As Deputy County Attorney, Cynthia has guided OCA's legal efforts on affordable housing matters to include public-private partnerships. Aside from working to ensure the FCRHA and the Department of Housing and Community Development are fully supported in making strategic legal decisions, Cynthia also makes time to serve various statewide organizations as well as teach college-level courses and legal seminars. Cynthia is also an active member of the Local Government Attorneys of Virginia and has mentored countless attorneys. Chairman Stanton asked those in attendance to join her in proudly congratulating Deputy County Attorney Cynthia Bailey for the well-deserved recognition.

Director Tom Fleetwood thanked Cynthia on behalf of the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) staff for all her incredible support given to the FCRHA and HCD.

### **Jamestown Award – 2024 Locality of the Year**

Director Fleetwood announced that HCD staff in conjunction with leaders at Fairfax County's Department of Planning and Development and the Planning Commission have been awarded the *Jamestown Award – Locality of the Year* for 2024 by the Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA). He indicated that this is a prestigious award which will be presented at the Virginia APA's 2024 Annual Conference in July. The County was selected for the award for the "Expanding Housing Options in Fairfax VA" which encompassed collaborative work to address the challenges associated with the Workforce Dwelling Unit Program and other joint planning activities related to affordable housing. The work involved many members of the HCD team including Anna Shapiro, Meghan Van Dam, Abdi Hamud, Bree Fuller,

and Grace Highman. He concluded that HCD is very proud of the team and its work.

### **Preservation and Reinvestment Initiative for Community Enhancement (PRICE) Grant Opportunity**

Director Fleetwood informed the Commissioners that the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is making available \$200,000,000 to support the needs of families living in manufactured housing communities in the United States through the PRICE grant opportunity. Fairfax County has eight manufactured housing communities which house approximately 1,750 families. The funding will be awarded through a competitive process, and support the repair, rehabilitation, and replacement of existing manufactured housing units, land acquisition by the manufactured housing residents, and several other services and planning activities. The funding will be administered via the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) framework. HUD expects to make approximately 25 awards with grants ranging from \$5 million to \$75 million per awardee. Staff will be requesting nearly \$40 million in funding.

Director Fleetwood stated that the Commissioners were sent a draft of the application for the PRICE grant, which is the result of a tremendous amount of effort by everyone involved. HUD's current application deadline is June 5, 2024. However, it is anticipated that HUD will be extending the deadline. Director Fleetwood further stated that an application will be submitted to HUD ahead of the final deadline. Meghan Van Dam and Sharon Shields are available to answer questions regarding this process.

Commissioner Cushing shared that, based on his review of the draft application, the document does an excellent job marshalling data that is available to support the needs of the identified communities. He stated that the strategy of having a very data-forward and data-dense presentation that shows the need is significant. He commended Meghan Van Dam and everyone involved for putting together a first-rate draft application.

### **Franconia Governmental Center**

Commissioner Zurawski stated that he attended two of the three community meetings held regarding the Franconia Governmental Center. He indicated that the meetings were spirited with lots of resident engagement. Commissioner Zurawski further stated that he thinks the development will be interesting either way regardless of the outcome.

### **Dequincy Place Group Home**

The Community Services Board (CSB) notified HCD of its decision to end its lease with the FCRHA for the Dequincy Place Group Home property. The property is owned by the FCRHA and located in the Braddock District. Over the course of the FCRHA's ownership, the CSB has operated it as a group home. The CSB has moved its remaining residents to another facility and vacated the property at the end of April. HCD staff are currently evaluating options regarding the future use of the property. Director Fleetwood will be advising the Commissioners of such once the evaluation

period is completed.

**Administrative Reminders**

Director Fleetwood reminded the Commissioners that there are benefits of using their County-issued email account as opposed to using their personal email account. One of the benefits is relative to potential issues regarding the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (VFOIA). There will be more information provided by the Office of the County Attorney regarding VFOIA at the FCRHA's meeting on June 13.

Director Fleetwood also reminded the Commissioners that in April, Brandy Thompson sent an email encouraging them to complete the annually required Fairfax County Security Awareness Foundations and Phishing Foundations training modules. The deadline to complete the training was April 19. He noted that there were some commissioners who had not yet completed the training. The modules should take no longer than 40 minutes to complete. Jason Chia is available to assist with connectivity issues.