

**PROVIDENCE HOUSING AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING: Thursday, September 26, 2013; 5:30 p.m.**

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**Carroll Tower**

**243 Smith Street**

**Providence, RI 02908**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Nicolas Retsinas called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:**

Nicolas Retsinas  
Thomas Ryan  
Dolores Cascella  
Roger Giraud  
John Igliazzi  
Nicholas Narducci  
Ricardo Patino  
Hilary Silver  
JT Taylor  
Dorothy Waters

**Absent:**

Kevin Jackson

Ten members were present which constituted a quorum to conduct business.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Commissioner Narducci seconded by Commissioner Igliazzi to accept and approve the regular meeting minutes of 7/25/13 and 8/22/13. The minutes were approved with a unanimous voice vote.

**RESIDENT'S COMMENTS**

Resident Charles Johnson raised various concerns about the lack of social services for the elderly at Carroll Towers. Mr. Johnson is looking for the PHA and/or the City of Providence to help transport the residents on "field trips" and outings. He also stated that there is an issue with the elevators not working properly.

Commissioner Narducci commented that the City of Providence no longer has recreation busses and that the City and PHA do not have the funds for additional programs. The Commissioner suggested that the residents reach out to their local Councilman to voice their concerns. Councilman Igliazzi stated that he would contact RIPTA and First Student Bus to ask for "in-kind" service for the residents. Marvin Carmody, Director of Asset Management spoke about the recent repairs to the elevators. Councilman Igliazzi asked that the PHA management look into the elevator issue and report back.

Chairman Retsinas suggested that the Resident Service Coordinator meet with the residents to attempt to address their issues and concerns.

**Chairman's Report**

Chairman Retsinas had a meeting with the Resident Advisory Board and would like to thank Commissioner Taylor for her leadership and Larry D'Afonso for representing Carroll Towers. He also recognized Commissioner Cascella's participation in the RAB.

## **INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Tavares stated that Marilyn O'Sullivan, District Director of HUD, is tentatively scheduled to visit the PHA and tour the developments on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, subject to the government shutdown. The Chairman invited all board members to join the meeting.

Secondly, the Director announced that the impact of the federal sequester is still of concern. He recently had a conference call with the Boston HUD Office to discuss the Section 8 administrative fund, which currently is running a deficit. The Housing Assistance Program (HAP) funds are in the positive and expected to remain so until February 2014. All efforts will continue to successfully address this issue with advice and counsel from HUD.

The Director commented that other issues are mentioned in the MMR, and Commissioners may contact him with any questions.

Vice Chairman Ryan asked if in the event of a government shutdown, whether the PHA would be negatively affected. Director Tavares assured the commissioners that a short duration shutdown would not affect the PHA; however, a long duration could present unforeseen problems.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- Budget and Finance: (Comm. Giraud)
- Resident Services: (Comm. Silver)
- Capital Improvements: (Comm. Cascella)
- Executive Committee: (Chair Retsinas)

Chairman Retsinas stated that the search committee would be meeting shortly to narrow the list of eligible candidates for the Executive Director. A list of the candidates will be forwarded to the commissioners.

### **RESOLUTIONS:**

None

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Commissioner Narducci commented that the issues at Chad Brown are getting better. Three young men started an organization for the youth with basketball leagues. The Commissioner is asking that the PHA offer some recreational time at the Rudolph Tavares Center to help keep kids off the street. He suggested that the three young men attend a board meeting to discuss what their program entails. Director Tavares asked the commissioner to contact him and he will meet with the appropriate parties.

Chairman Retsinas announced there are well over 3,000 housing authorities in the U.S., and for the first time in history, The National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials have given a National Award of Excellence to the PHA for their 'No Smoking Policy' and the documentary promoting that policy.

In keeping with the monthly presentations, Chairman Retsinas introduced Melissa Sanzaro, Director of Special Projects, to present the documentary to the board and attendees.

Melissa thanked the commissioners, residents, and staff for helping with the documentary. She stated HUD asked to have it posted on their website as well as Rhode Island Department of Health's website. The PHA continues to work with Tri-Town Action Agency providing space for people to attend 'Quit-Classes' which are held at Hartford Park's Training Center. Melissa is working with the City of Providence, the Department of Health, and Tri-Town Action Agency to

bring the classes back to the elderly-disabled developments because of transportation challenges.

Chairman Retsinas stated that a poll concerning meeting times was conducted and concluded in a tie. He then asked the commissioners to voice and vote their preference. The majority vote resulted in a motion to move the board of commissioners meeting to 5:00 p.m. and sub-committee meetings to 4:30 p.m. Said motion was made by Commissioner Taylor and seconded by Commissioner Cascella; Motion passed with both Commissioners Ryan & Waters voting in the negative.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chairman Retsinas concluded the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

**Minutes Submitted and Approved By:**

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Lisa Cancelliere  
Recording Secretary

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Paul Tavares  
Interim Executive Director