

ITEM D

**HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF PASSAIC
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
JANUARY 16, 2019**

PLACE: Community Center
299 Gregory Avenue
Passaic, New Jersey 07055

READING OF THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT:

As required by NJSA 10:4-6 et seq. known as the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting was provided in the following manner: On December 29, 2018 notice of this meeting specifying the date, time and location was published by the Herald News and The Record and transmitted via email to the Clerk of the City of Passaic. Notice was also posted at all HACP sites.

COMMISSIONERS - PRESENT: Delmis G. Fernandez
Beatrice Johnson – arrived at 6:04 p.m.
Alan Juszcyk
L. Daniel Rodriguez
Edwin Perez
Ronald Van Rensalier

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Pamela Mitchell
Joann Arroyo
Leidy Brito-Diroche
Glenny Candelaria
Lismarie Guerrero
Joanna Lara
Natasha Pearson
Barlow Taylor
Vincent Wynter

Meeting opened at 6:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioner Fernandez: Present; Commissioner Johnson: Arrived at 6:04 p.m.; Commissioner Juszcyk: Present; Commissioner Perez: Present; Commissioner Rodriguez: Present; Chairman Van Rensalier: Present.

Swearing in of new commissioner, Majin Zuniga, conducted by Terrence J. Corrison.

RESOLUTIONS

CHAIRPERSON VAN RENSALIER STATED THAT ANY MEMBER OF THE BOARD MAY REQUEST THAT ANY ITEM BE REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA AND BE CONSIDERED SEPARATELY. ALL REMAINING ITEMS WILL BE CONSIDERED TOGETHER.

Commissioner Jusczyk asked that Resolutions 2019-01 and 2019-04 be considered separately.

2019-01 RESOLUTION APPROVING ACCOUNTS PAYABLE FOR THE PERIOD OF DECEMBER 19, 2018 THROUGH JANUARY 11, 2019.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rodriguez, seconded by Commissioner Perez, to approve Resolution 2019-01.

- Commissioner Jusczyk: I separated this resolution in case any of the commissioners with relationships with the Passaic Valley Water Commission would like to abstain on voting for it.

On roll call vote: Commissioner Fernandez: Aye; Commissioner Johnson: Aye; Commissioner Jusczyk: Aye; Commissioner Perez: Aye; Commissioner Rodriguez: Aye; Chairman Van Rensalier: Abstain.

MOTION: RESOLUTION 2019-01 APPROVED.

2019-04 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SICK PAY TERMINAL LEAVE BENEFIT TO EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT / PERSONNEL OFFICER, BARBARA RIVERA

A motion was made by Commissioner Perez, seconded by Commissioner Jusczyk, to approve Resolution 2019-04.

- Commissioner Jusczyk: I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Barbara Rivera for her many years working for the Housing Authority. Sometimes it's a thankless job and she gave her all. She went above and beyond the required hours and effort for this position.
- Chairman Van Rensalier: I can attest to that working with her for nearly twenty-two years along with former colleague, Evelyn Robinson. It is a thankless job and we know it personally.

On roll call vote: Commissioner Fernandez: Aye; Commissioner Johnson: Aye; Commissioner Jusczyk: Aye; Commissioner Perez: Aye; Commissioner Rodriguez: Aye; Chairman Van Rensalier: Aye.

MOTION: RESOLUTION 2019-04 APPROVED.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- 2019-02 WITHDRAWN.
- 2019-03 RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL FOR OFFICIAL TRAVEL BY COMMISSIONER MAJIN ZUNIGA FOR THE PURPOSE OF COMPLETING FIVE (5) COURSES MANDATED BY THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY.
- 2019-05 WITHDRAWN.
- 2019-06 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF SECURITY MONITORS.
- 2019-07 RESOLUTION APPROVING OFFICIAL TRAVEL TO AND FROM PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA BY VINCENT D. WYNTER FOR A TWO DAY TRAINING ENTITLED "RAD CONVERSION, ACCOUNTING & FINANCIAL REPORTING" ON MARCH 26-27, 2019.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rodriguez, seconded by Chairman Van Rensalier, to approve all Resolutions on the Consent Agenda.

On roll call vote: Commissioner Fernandez: Aye; Commissioner Johnson: Aye; Commissioner Juszyk: Aye; Commissioner Perez: Aye; Commissioner Rodriguez: Aye; Chairman Van Rensalier: Aye.

MOTION: RESOLUTIONS 2019-03, 2019-06 and 2019-07 APPROVED.

REMARKS BY CITIZENS

The following was read: In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-1 et seq.) The Housing Authority of the City of Passaic opens every public meeting for comments from the public. Each person choosing to speak at the meetings will be limited to five minutes, to speak on any subject, on or off the agenda. All speakers must state their name and address for the record. However, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 "nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit the discretion of a public body to permit, prohibit or regulate the active participation at any meeting"

Therefore, please be advised that the Housing Authority of the City of Passaic will not entertain any comments from persons who communicate obscene material, make statements which are considered bias intimidation in which a person intends to intimidate any individual or group because of race, color, religion, gender, handicap, sexual orientation or ethnicity or makes comments intending to harass or speak in any offensive language. The person who makes these statements will relinquish their allotted five minutes for public discussion. Any person who persists in speaking out of turn, or interrupts the peace and order of the meeting will be escorted off the premises.

Germaine Gibson-Williams, 231 Sherman St., Passaic, NJ: First, I'd like to wish a "Happy New Year" to everybody. Second, I would like to also comment in reference to former employee, Barbara Rivera. She was a beacon of light, a beacon of hope when it came to the Housing Authority. She always kept a balance. As a former Commissioner and member of the community, I wish her the best in her future endeavors. On December 22nd we had a casino day party for the seniors at the Vreeland Village Community Center. I would like to thank Commissioner Johnson, Chairman Van Rensalier and Commissioner Rodriguez, who was one of the dealers. When I arrived at the center, only 5 ½ of the 16-18 lights were working. One of the lights was continuously blinking. There was also water in the middle of the floor. It was asked of the management in reference to the lights and it was said that there is enough lighting to do whatever it is that is going to be done there. It was stated the light bulbs were on back order for four weeks. The management for these family sites has to remember: just because it's not the Carlton Towers does not mean you treat the residents of the Housing Authority anything less. The day to day is not being handled as it should. Management has to make sure that our residents are safe and live in a clean environment.

Jaroslav Jackiw-266 Lafayette Ave., Passaic, NJ: Who is going to replace HR and Executive Assistant, Barbara Rivera? On Monday morning I filed six OPRA's.

- Chairman Van Rensalier: We are still searching for a replacement. In the interim, the Executive Director will be handling the OPRA requests.

Renee Griggs, 23 Aspen Pl. Apt. 6C: Although Speer Village Resident Council is not being recognized at this time, we have been having ongoing community conversations. I have been working with the Director of Resident Services in getting feedback from the community regarding the tutorial and summer program. Advised residents that if nothing else, this is a safe haven for children to have a place to do their homework and use its resources. I would also like to thank Mr. Taylor. He is always answering the phone and always listening. Mr. Clayton Barker and Mr. Dye were instrumental in working with the residents. A young lady who is running for the Board of Education and a schoolteacher in the city, was able to give our residents some information they did not know.

Kasim Washington, 15 Wilscot St., Passaic, NJ: Ms. Mitchell is now the first black woman director in Passaic's history at the Housing Authority. We commend you for that. I was an advocate of Freedom Fighter for Change and I went and hibernated for a while. When I found out that you made history, I said I have to come back out. I want the panel to know that she has backing. There are people amongst you that came with you that don't want you in that position. There's people who used to work right there by you who are jealous of you in your position. There may even be some panel members who actually may have wanted your position. I know you are going to stand for what's right. It's about residents and their well-being. You're younger, vibrant, very intellectual and a charismatic speaker. I promise you this is not the last meeting I'll be coming to. You have awakened the bear. I'm going to help as much as I can.

Evelyn T. Robinson, 222 Sixth St. Apt. 2D: I would like to thank Glenny and Henry Navarro for the assistance they gave us with our skate trip to Branch Brook Park. Some of the children shared that they did not get at home. The only gifts donated were the only gifts they had. Any time there was something that was going to happen on Sixth St., Chestnut, Speer and any other sites, residents were given notices and were given the opportunity to vote on various things that

were going on. We have been talking about a laundromat for Sixth St. for many years. From now on we would like that respect. We need to have something worked on with the future projects that are taking place on Sixth St. We are having a Super Bowl Party fundraiser and am asking for donations.

Jeffrey Dye, Passaic – President of the NAACP: I am proud of Ms. Pam Mitchell for the position that she has. She's earned it; she's been here long term. I know that most of the commissioners are appointed by way of city hall. I would love to see each one of you commissioners be elected by the residents, not by city hall. What I see is what I don't like. And what I have seen over the years is city hall being involved in Housing and the Board of Education. It shouldn't be like that. When it comes to these directors, it's different things that are being put on them that I don't think is fair. I think that whatever terms they are given, that they are given the same fair treatment as the last commissioners, particularly in terms of one-year contracts when others are getting five-year contracts. I'm here to let all of you know that I am full support of Ms. Pamela Mitchell. I am hoping, and looking for, her to be treated like the last Executive Directors. Please keep politics out of city housing.

A motion was made by Commissioner Jusczyk, seconded by Commissioner Johnson to close the *Remarks by Citizens* portion of the meeting.

On roll call vote: Commissioner Fernandez: Aye; Commissioner Johnson: Aye; Commissioner Jusczyk: Aye; Commissioner Perez: Aye; Commissioner Rodriguez: Aye; Chairman Van Rensalier: Aye.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Submitted.

RESIDENT COUNCIL REPORTS

Vreeland Village Resident Association submitted at meeting.

- Chairman Van Rensalier: I have a question, Ms. Robinson, about the meeting with the Security Investigator relative to smoking outside.
- Ms. Robinson: We will be meeting on a regular basis. Mr. Taylor listened and empathized with residents.
- Chairman Van Rensalier: You had a great turnout and I commend you on that.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Submitted.

TREASURER'S REPORT/ DIRECTOR OF FINANCE REPORT

Submitted.

DIRECTOR OF HOUSING ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM'S REPORT

Submitted.

DIRECTOR OF RESIDENT SERVICES' REPORT

Submitted.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Submitted.

- Chairman Van Rensalier: The PAHC state in their report there is an issue with decals. Why can't we fix this? Why wouldn't they be cooperative? If this means towing cars that are taking away from the legitimate residents, then we need to do that. The report also states there is no update on sinkhole near 247 Chestnut St. and the engineering department has been notified. There is a new engineering firm, so you can go to the engineering department and start all over.

SECURITY INVESTIGATOR'S REPORT

Submitted.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Commissioner Jusczyk: I would like to welcome our new commissioner. I hope you take it to heart the concerns that the residents have. This is really impacting on them. I would like to congratulate former Commissioner Angel Laboy, who is no longer a Commissioner on our Housing Authority Board. I would like to wish former Commissioner Laboy well on all his endeavors and thank him for his years of service.
- Chairman Van Rensalier: Spoke with the Director this morning and plan on giving a plaque to Angel Laboy in recognition of his service.

ADJOURNMENT

6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela Mitchell
Executive Director/Secretary