

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY  
OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE  
FEBRUARY 20, 2018

The Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the City of Seattle (“Seattle Housing Authority” or “SHA”) met in regular session on February 20, 2018, at SHA’s Central Office Building located at 190 Queen Anne Avenue North, Seattle, Washington. Board Chair Debbie Thiele called the meeting to order at 5:05p.m. Kimberly Garrett performed a roll call for Board Commissioners in attendance. Commissioners present and absent were as follows:

Present:       Debbie Thiele, Chair  
                  Emily Abbey, Vice-Chair  
                  Ahmed Abdi

Absent:         Zachary DeWolf  
                  Dr. Paula Houston  
                  David Moseley  
                  Jermaine Smiley

Public Comment

Michael B. Fuller  
Marguerite Richard

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Thiele presented the Consent Agenda, which included approval of minutes for the Regular Board Meeting of December 18, 2017; minutes for the Regular Board Meeting of January 16, 2018; and, approval of the Expenditure Certification Reports (Authorization to Pay Outstanding Obligations of Salaries and Claims for the Period of December 1 through December 31, 2017, as well as January 1 to January 31, 2018). Due to a lack of quorum, the Consent Agenda approval vote was postponed to the next viable Board meeting.

## Regular Agenda

### Resolution No. 5148 – Write-off of Delinquent Accounts

Due to a lack of quorum, the presentation and approval vote was postponed to the next viable Board meeting.

### Home from School Update

Cynthia Setel, Director of Rental Assistance Programs, presented to the Board an update on Home from School (HfS), a pilot program SHA administers with Bailey Gatzert Elementary School. Mr. Lofton and SHA has had a long-standing passion for working with the students and families at Bailey Gatzert, a school located near Yesler Terrace redevelopment. This school has a high number of homeless families, which is of great concern. SHA wanted to partner with Bailey Gatzert to find positive ways of impacting the community, stabilizing students at the school, while helping to mitigate homelessness around the Yesler Terrace ‘catchment’ area. By providing vouchers or an SHA unit, these households are able to reside in the catchment area of the school, and continue attending Bailey Gatzert Elementary. The program is a collaboration between SHA, Seattle Public Schools (SPS), Wellspring Family Services (WFS) and, originally, the Mayor’s Office.

In the 2016-2017 school year, all 52 homeless families enrolled at Gatzert were contacted about Home from School. 20 families expressed interest and were referred to Wellspring Family Services. Surprisingly, 77% of the referred families resided at Broadview Shelter, a DV shelter. More engagement was required than previously expected which has impacted staffing capacity in an effort to provide comprehensive wrap around services to students and families. The goal is to serve these families in a way which provides long-term housing success. Ultimately, 16 families were housed. So far, in the 2017-2018 school year, 12 families have been referred, with one family housed. In total, 17 referred families are now stably housed. Bailey Gatzert Elementary School reports a 5% decline in absences and students in the pilot are coming to school on time and parents are engaged in the program.

## Executive Director Report

Mr. Lofton spoke to the Board regarding the federal budget. The last time he briefed the Board, a deadline was approaching toward an imminent Government shutdown, which did in fact occur. President Trump signed a spending bill Friday, February 9 that ended a nine-hour Federal Government shutdown. An agreement was reached for the overall budget caps that are now being discussed within committees, and the actual appropriations of those dollars for the different departments and programs are now being negotiated, with a deadline set at March 23 to be passed out of Committee and voted on by Congress.

The President's 2019 Budget came out on February 12, with significant reductions, as with his 2018 Budget, for non-discretionary domestic programs, of which we are one. The HUD budget last year was a 13% reduction proposed, which was not enacted. The 2019 HUD budget was reduced even more at almost 15% proposed. In addition, several policy changes are also being offered; i.e., work requirements are being suggested, increases in minimum rent for public housing and Housing Choice Vouchers are being proposed, and some policy requirements that may be very difficult on low-income residents. We are hopeful that Congress will not agree with these proposals and will work with our congressional delegates to protect our funding for our essential programs.

Mr. Lofton shared with the Board that on Friday, February 9th SHA celebrated the Somali Alphabet Book Launch at the New Holly Gathering Hall. The book was a project funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Library Foundation and Race to the Top, Deep Dive 3, in partnership with Seattle Public Library, Seattle Public Schools and the Seattle Housing Authority. Somali families of New Holly worked together to produce the book Baro Af-Soomali, a picture book of the Somali alphabet. He is extremely proud of the grass root effort these families and residents worked to get the book published to keep their culture alive in their community. The book will be offered on Amazon.com for sale.

Mr. Lofton updated the Board on the status of the three new Commissioner candidates set for appointment to the SHA Board. The hope is that the new Commissioners collectively will be appointed and voted on by City Council, and on board in position by early April 2018.

The Executive Session was postponed due to lack of quorum and will be held at the next viable Board meeting.

Commissioner Thiele asked if there were any further questions or comments from staff, or from her colleagues on the Board. Hearing none, the February 20, 2018 regular session of the Board adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

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Secretary-Treasurer