

**BOARD OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
MEETING**

**10:52 A.M., March 15, 2021**

**Digital Meeting Only**

**Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and public health emergency and the need to provide social distancing and prohibit large gatherings, the meeting was held electronically in accordance with the State of Emergency Declared by the Governor and the 2020 amendments to the Appropriations Act. The meeting was held via Google Meet.**

Members Present

Sonny Abbasi  
Claudia Cotton  
Susan Dewey  
Sean Farrell  
Andrew Friedman  
Sylvia Hallock  
Mark Jackson  
Monique Johnson  
Brett Meringoff

Members Absent

Richard Gregory  
Abigail Johnson  
Keith Johnson  
Patricia "Patty" Shields

Call to Order

Mr. Sonny Abbasi, Chair of the Board of Housing and Community Development, called the meeting of the Board to order at 10:52 a.m.

Roll Call

The roll was called by Mr. Kyle Flanders of the Department of Housing and Community Development's (DHCD) Policy Office. Mr. Flanders reported that a quorum was present.

Public Comment

Mr. Abbasi opened the floor for public comment.

No member of the public appeared before the Board for public comment. The public comment period was closed.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Meringoff and properly seconded by Mr. Jackson to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2021 Board of Housing and Community Development meeting. The motion passed (Yeas: Abbasi, Cotton, Dewey, Farrell, Friedman, Hallock, Jackson, M. Johnson, Meringoff; Nays: None).

Report of the Housing and Community Development Committee

Mr. Friedman presented proposed changes to the Port Host Community Revitalization Fund guidelines. The Housing and Community Development committee recommended the changes to provide program efficiency and effectiveness. The

recommendation to approve the changes came as a standing motion from the committee. The standing motion was seconded by Ms. Cotton. The motion passed (Yeas: Abbasi, Cotton, Dewey, Farrell, Friedman, Hallock, Jackson, M. Johnson, Meringoff; Nays: None).

#### 2018 Code Change Cycle Update

Mr. Flanders noted that the regulations are in their final adoption period. During this time, petitions to allow additional comment may be submitted regarding changes between the proposed and final regulations. Staff requested the Board's approval to delegate to staff to review any petitions filed and proceed with suspending the regulations and soliciting additional comment if proper petitions are received.

A motion was made by Mr. Meringoff and properly seconded by Mr. Friedman to delegate to staff the role of reviewing of petitions and suspending the regulations if necessary. The motion passed (Yeas: Abbasi, Cotton, Dewey, Farrell, Freidman, Hallock, Jackson, M Johnson, Meringoff; Nays: None).

Mr. Flanders noted that various individual consensus changes in Chapters 12 and 20 of the Statewide Fire Prevention Code approved in October 2020 were not included in the materials provided to the Board at the December 2020 meeting. Those changes will be brought to the Board for consideration at a future meeting.

#### Reports and Information

Ms. Susan Dewey, Chief Executive Officer of Virginia Housing, noted that the General Assembly had approved an Opportunity Tax Credit that would parallel the federal Low Income Housing Tax Credit, which Virginia Housing will assist in administering. She also noted that Virginia Housing staff would be holding forums this year to gather input regarding recommended changes to the Qualified Allocation Plan, which directs how federal tax credits are allocated.

Mr. Erik Johnston, Director of DHCD, updated the Board on the recently passed federal stimulus package. The package includes an emergency rental assistance component including longer spending deadlines for new funding and extended deadlines for previously allocated funding. An additional \$9.39 billion in funding for mortgage relief was also included in the package.

Mr. Johnston gave an overview of the proposed state budget, including increases in funding for the Housing Trust Fund, funding for an agency study on accessory dwelling units, increased Industrial Revitalization Fund funding, and increased Enterprise Zone Program funding.

Mr. Johnston noted that the first Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) auction occurred which created additional funding for DHCD to administer energy efficiency programs such as the Weatherization Assistance Program.

Mr. Johnston gave an update on pending legislation from the 2021 General Assembly session. The pending legislation includes changes to the Enterprise Zone program related to the minimum wage and changes to the Building Code related to energy efficiency.

Unfinished Business	There was no unfinished business.
New Business	There was no new business.
Board Matters	There were no further board matters.
Future Board Meeting Dates	Mr. Johnston noted that the next Board meeting will take place on May 10, at 10:00 a.m. He noted that additional or different meeting dates might be necessary to finalize the Code Update Process.
Adjournment	Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.