

**BOARD OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
MEETING**

11:15 A.M., May 10, 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
Abigail Johnson
Keith Johnson
Monique Johnson
Brett Meringoff
Patricia “Patty” Shields

Members Absent

Richard Gregory

Call to Order

Mr. Sonny Abbasi, Chair of the Board of Housing and Community Development, called the meeting of the Board to order at 11:15 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. Mark Jackson and properly seconded by Mr. Sean Farrell to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2021 Board of Housing and Community Development meeting. The motion passed (Yeas: Abbasi, Cotton, Dewey, Farrell, Friedman, Hallock, Jackson, A. Johnson, K. Johnson, M. Johnson, Meringoff, Shields; Nays: None).

Report of the Codes and Standards Committee

Mr. Brett Meringoff, Committee Chair, presented proposed updates to the Statewide Fire Prevention Code; Chapter 12 and Chapter 20 [Energy systems and Aviation facilities] as recommended by the Statewide Fire Prevention Code Committee, the Codes and Standards Committee, and the Joint Board of Housing and Community Development and Virginia Fire Services Board. The changes were presented as a standing motion. The motion was seconded by Mr. Meringoff. The motion passed (Yeas: Abbasi, Cotton, Dewey, Farrell, Friedman, Jackson, A. Johnson, K. Johnson, M. Johnson, Meringoff, Shields; Nays: None).

Report of the Housing and Community Development Committee

Mr. Andrew Friedman, Committee Chair, presented the committee recommendation of approval of the Annual Action Plan. The recommendation was presented as a standing motion. The motion was seconded by Mr. Abbasi. The motion passed (Yeas: Abbasi, Cotton, Dewey, Farrell, Friedman, Hallock, Jackson, A. Johnson, K. Johnson, M. Johnson, Meringoff, Shields; Nays: None).

Mr. Friedman presented recommended Housing Trust Fund Allocations. The recommendation was presented as a standing motion. The motion was seconded by Mr. Abbasi. The motion passed (Yeas: Abbasi, Cotton, Farrell, Friedman, Hallock, Jackson, A. Johnson, K. Johnson, M. Johnson, Meringoff, Shields; Nays: None).

2018 Code Change Cycle Update

Ms. Cindy Davis, Deputy Director of Building and Fire Regulation at DHCD presented a brief overview of the 2018 Code Change Cycle. Ms. Davis noted that changes approved during the present meeting would go into effect at the same time as all other changes approved at previous meetings, which would be July 1, 2021. Ms. Davis also noted that virtual training for these updates are being planned and a number of sessions will have been completed prior to the update becoming affective.

Ms. Davis noted that staff is preparing to move directly into the 2021 Code Update Cycle. It was noted that the number of proposals over the last several cycles has dramatically increased. Discussion ensued amongst the Board about possible process improvements to streamline the code change process. After

discussion, the Board directed staff to form a process improvement proposal for consideration at the next Board meeting.

Reports and Information

Ms. Susan Dewey, Chief Executive Officer of Virginia Housing updated the Board on funding scheduled to be received by Virginia Housing from the American Rescue Plan Act. Funding from the Act will be utilized to prevent foreclosure and displacement of homeowners. The initial 10% of funding will be utilized for a pilot program and the rest will be used to take the project from the pilot stage to a full program.

Ms. Dewey noted that Virginia Housing is prepared to work through public comment to determine if there are any necessary changes needed to the Qualified Allocation Plan, which governs how Low Income Housing Tax Credit allocations are distributed.

Mr. Keith Johnson presented an update from the Virginia Fire Service Board (VFSB), which last met on April 16, 2021. The Board has welcomed three new members: Mr. Steven Sites, Mr. Ryant Washington, and Mr. Ben Reedy. A new chair will be elected at the next meeting. The VFSB is currently working on putting together a proposed new Memorandum of Understanding between VFSB and BHCD.

Mr. Erik Johnston, Director of DHCD, updated the Board on the Rent Relief Program. DHCD has made \$5M available for a grant program seeking to provide outreach to households that may have encountered barriers to accessing the Rent Relief Program.

Mr. Johnston relayed to the Board that the Governor and General Assembly are discussing returning for a special session for the purposes of considering how and where allocations from the American Rescue Plan will be utilized. In addition to the foreclosure prevention program being developed by Virginia Housing with funding from the American Rescue Plan (ARP), DHCD will be applying for an additional \$451M in Emergency Rental Assistance, which is planned to be utilized within the Rent Relief Program.

Mr. Johnston noted that HOME ARP funding resources should also be on the way to DHCD later in the fall. These funds are being

utilized to help with the construction of new affordable housing which serves people experiencing homelessness.

Mr. Johnston also noted that the Governor's emergency order is scheduled to end June 30 and that meetings may return to in person meetings starting in July. Mr. Johnston also expressed that staff is planning a Board retreat in December, which would allow for staff to provide in depth overviews of the various programs administered by DHCD.

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 July 19, at 10:00 a.m.
Adjournment	Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.