

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
 COMMISSIONERS OF THE
 CITY OF ROANOKE REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Commissioners of the City of Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing Authority met for a regular session on Monday, January 28, 2019, in the offices of the City of Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing Authority, 2624 Salem Turnpike, NW, in the City of Roanoke, Virginia.

I. CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL

Chair Garner called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and declared that a quorum was present.

PRESENT:	Commissioners Anguiano, Burruss, Garner, Karnes, Kepley, Smith
ABSENT:	Commissioner Witten
OFFICER PRESENT:	Mrs. Glenda Edwards Goh, Secretary-Treasurer
ALSO PRESENT:	Jackie Austin, VP of Finance/CFO; David Bustamante, VP of Housing; Stephanie Cooperstein, Section 3 Manager; Frederick Gusler, Director of Redevelopment and Revitalization; Crystal Hall, Community Support Services Director; Mark Loftis, Legal Counsel; Suzzette McCoy, Site Manager; Djuna Osborne, Roanoke City Council Liaison; Joel Shank, VP of Operations; Amanda Sparks, HCV Manager; Kelly Martin, Senior Executive Assistant; Debra Carter, Interested Citizen

Chair Garner welcomed everyone to today's meeting.

REPORTS

1. Financial Report

Chair Garner stated that Mrs. Austin provided a Financial Narrative along with a Financial Report.

Mrs. Austin responded to Chair Garner's questions concerning the large negative balance on the Indian Rock balance sheet located on page 10, saying that there are projects underway at that location a running deficit from prior year's impacts 2019. Additionally, there is more money being paid out for expenses than revenue received. She stated that a \$1.52 million deficit has been incurred since October 2018. Mrs. Austin noted that the income statement on page 31 reflects that ordinary maintenance is over budget, and total revenue year to date was \$277,000 while total expenses are \$290,000, and there are transfers out of \$1.1 million. In response to Mrs. Goh and Chair Garner's inquiries regarding the transfers, Mrs. Austin said she will research the details and provide follow-up information.

Mrs. Austin replied to Chair Garner's question concerning the credit in December for Section 8 retained earnings on page 13 of the financial report, stating that an invoice in the amount of \$63,862 was paid for the new software.

Chair Garner asked if there were any comments or questions. There were none.

2. Executive Director's Report

Chair Garner asked for the Executive Director's report.

Mrs. Goh informed the Board that since the time the written report was submitted she is happy to say that the shutdown is over and the federal government is operating again, at least for three weeks. According to the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO), even if there is another shutdown on

February 15, 2019 the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has funding for March and April 2019 payments. Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing Authority (RRHA) staff believes that, should there be another shutdown, there are sufficient reserves available to cover one more month for the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program beyond what HUD provides, assuming that RRHA is able to access its HUD-held reserves. She stated that RRHA should be able to get through May 2019 even if there is another shutdown of equal length to the one that just occurred. The public housing program can go beyond that, thanks to the several months of reserves, before it encounters a critical operational problem.

Mrs. Goh mentioned that the HCV program waiting list will begin accepting applications at 8:30 a.m. on February 5, 2019 and will close at 5:00 p.m. on February 7, 2019. When RRHA opened the waiting list four years ago around the same time of the year and for a comparable time period, approximately 2,600 applications were received. She said that RRHA staff is expecting the same amount of applications, if not more, and doubts that the total will be substantially less. RRHA will have those applications to work through for the next several years as vouchers are available to be issued. Mrs. Goh explained that the Yardi RENTCafe' portal has been set up so that applications can be accepted online. Yardi has been really good to work with so far and the portal testing reveals it to be pretty straight forward and user-friendly. She said that RRHA is hopeful that this will be a fairly easy way for people to apply to the program.

Mrs. Goh said that a number of community service provider agencies are coming in on Friday, February 1, 2019 for training, so that they will be able to provide

assistance to potential applicants. RRHA will also have staff available for individuals who encounter any problems getting their application in the portal. She stated that, as required, the opening of the waiting list was publically announced two weeks before the date of the opening.

Mrs. Goh reminded the Board that the Community Meetings Schedule was sent out, and meetings will begin on February 20, 2019. These meetings are held so that RRHA can gather input for the development of the 2019 Annual Plan. She added that Commissioners are invited to attend the meetings, as their schedules allow.

Responding to Commissioner Burruss' question, Mr. Bustamante stated that, of the 2,600 HCV applicants from the 2015 waiting list, it would be hard to say how many were eligible to receive a voucher because when the applicant's name is drawn, they may have moved, or their telephone number may have changed or no longer be working. He said that, if there is no response, they are purged from the waiting list; however, there is no way to know if they were eligible when they initially applied since substantial time may have passed before their name is drawn. He stated that RRHA has worked through the 2015 waiting list, with only about 90 applicants remaining.

Mrs. Goh responded to Chair Garner's question, stating that the HCV waiting list opening is for a specified time frame and the number of applicants RRHA receives will determine the total number on the waiting list. This list will take several years to work through, and there are a number of changes that could take place by the time the applicant receives a voucher. Mrs. Goh explained that, since the last time RRHA took applications, there was a year where the vouchers were frozen and could not be issued due to a funding shortfall. When people are waiting for a long period of time

their circumstances change and, when individuals are contacted, they may no longer be interested or eligible, or they may have moved from the area.

In response to Chair Garner's question, Mrs. Goh stated that even in instances of emergency or disaster, the individual must be on the waiting list to receive a voucher, with the exception of some of the special programs, like the Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers. In order for someone to receive a VASH voucher they must have a referral from the Veterans Administration (VA). She added that, for special programs such as VASH and the Family Unification Program (FUP), the partner provider agencies will have referral codes and can submit applications for people who meet the eligibility requirements under those programs even though the waiting list is closed. Mrs. Goh stated that HUD, at times, will offer disaster vouchers, in situations such as a hurricane that result in a high number of people being displaced. In a situation like that RRHA would have additional vouchers to specifically work with those disaster victims, but on an individual basis there is no provision that allows RRHA to accept an application when the waiting list is closed. Mrs. Goh asked Mr. Bustamante to elaborate; he said that if an individual was on the list and they were purged but they come back to RRHA and explain that they moved, were hospitalized or had some type of issue, RRHA will usually work with them on a one on one basis. If they can show that the situation really occurred they are placed back on the waiting list but this is only applicable in situations where the person was on the waiting list initially.

Mrs. Goh replied to Chair Garner's question, stating that so far the only components of the Yardi Software that have been set up are screening for

background checks and the portal for the HCV applications. Mrs. Goh asked Mrs. Sparks to describe her experience with a test application. Mrs. Sparks stated that she submitted a test application and found that the software was very easy to navigate and everything went smoothly.

Vice Chair Anguiano complimented RRHA stating he had questions concerning the new system and the HCV application process but it seems that everyone has been proactive in providing training and involving community organizations.

Mrs. Goh told the Board that this will be the second time RRHA has taken applications online and it was remarkably successful last time. RRHA is fortunate to have a lot of really strong community partners who are very interested in getting people's housing needs met, and they are very willing to be trained and to be on standby to help anyone who is trying to submit an application.

Mrs. Goh responded to Chair Garner's inquiry concerning a comment someone made to him regarding collaboration between RRHA and Blue Ridge Behavioral Health (BRBH) offering housing vouchers. She explained that RRHA administers certain vouchers for which referrals come through Blue Ridge Independent Living Center, but there is not a program with BRBH. Mrs. Goh said that RRHA has set aside vouchers for individuals meeting eligibility under Olmstead, but the referrals come through the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (VDBHDS), not BRBH. Mrs. Goh described the program as having resulted from an agreement between Virginia and the U.S. Department of Justice following the Supreme Court decision in the Olmstead case. The program is designed to provide housing with supportive services to people with disabilities in the community rather

than institutional settings. In response to Chair Garner's question, Mr. Bustamante stated that RRHA has ten vouchers set aside for eligible persons, and they are fully utilized. Mrs. Goh added that RRHA also administers assistance to individuals with disabilities under the State Rental Assistance Program, with vouchers that operate similarly to HUD's Housing Choice Voucher program, but the program is not affiliated with HUD.

Responding to Commissioner Burruss' inquiry, Mr. Bustamante explained that the Mainstream Vouchers, for which referrals come from Blue Ridge Independent Living Center, are for adults who are not elderly but have disabilities.

Mrs. Goh pointed out that the Family Unification Program Vouchers are for kids aging out of foster care or for kids who are in foster care solely or primarily because the family's housing is inadequate. These vouchers would allow the family to be reunified. She said that RRHA has eighty-one vouchers available and it has been hard to fully utilize them. RRHA must receive a referral from either the city or county Department of Social Services, and the vouchers have never been 100% utilized. Mrs. Goh said that RRHA has had opportunities to apply for additional vouchers but has passed because current vouchers are not being fully utilized.

Ms. Carter stated that, relative to Mrs. Goh's comments about HUD funding after the shutdown, Ms. Carter has contacted all of her congressional representatives, and they had no clue if the funding would be guaranteed past February 2019. Mrs. Goh responded saying that NAHRO, one of the national associations for housing authorities, distributed a publication stating that HUD staff told them that there would be sufficient funding for March and April 2019. Mrs. Goh stated that this is the best

information she has at this point in time.

Responding to a question from Ms. Carter, Mrs. Goh stated that no Section 8 tenants have been threatened by eviction from their landlords, and RRHA has not missed any assistance payments. During the shutdown RRHA was fully funded for January and February 2019 payments. She said that RRHA was told there would be funding for February 2019 and the landlords were informed, in advance, so there would be no reason anyone should have been threatened with eviction. In response to Ms. Carter's clarification, Ms. Goh confirmed that her statement applied to participants in the Section 8 program administered by RRHA.

Mrs. Austin informed the Board that she now had the answer to the earlier finance question. She stated that RRHA had to make year-end entries in order to make the properties that are non-performing perform; this has to do with fungibility, which is a term that HUD uses when one property has funds in public housing and another property does not. Mrs. Austin said that RRHA can take those funds and transfer them over to a property that is not performing. Mrs. Goh stated that it is a process set up and approved by HUD.

Responding to Chair Garner's questions, Mrs. Austin said that depreciation is a year-end expense that is recorded once a year and is mainly for the audits. She explained that when finance is doing the calculations for the Real Estate Assessment Center (REAC) submission, depreciation expense is not included.

Chair Garner asked if there were any other comments or questions. There were none.

3. Staff Reports

Ms. Hall updated the Board on the Jobs Plus program. She stated that the Jobs Plus program would officially close on September 30, 2019. There is a possibility that some funding may remain and an extension may be requested but it is too early to tell. She explained that the staff are working hard, finding residents' jobs and enrolling them into job training programs. Right now RRHA is at a fifty-two percent employment rate at Lansdowne Park, compared to a thirty-seven percent employment rate recorded at the start of the grant. The earned income for a work-abled individual has increased a little over \$2,600 over that time. Ms. Hall said some good things have been happening and, when the HUD grant funds stop, the momentum should continue, but people still need to be prepared for the end of the grant period.

Ms. Hall reminded the Board that Jobs Plus pays the participants' rent increases, if the increase is based on earned income. She said that there are quite a few people who have been participating in that program, but the challenge is that when the grant ends their rent is going to go back up to the full amount, which will be quite a shock for some of them. She gave an example of the biggest difference in rent, a family who is currently paying \$50 in rent, but their actual income-based rent is now \$1,025, which they will have to pay when the grant ends. Ms. Hall stated that, although that is an extreme case, Jobs Plus is paying a significant amount of rent for some families, and amounts as small as \$15 for others. Ms. Hall stated that, when the grant ends, the responsibility for the entire rent will return to the resident. Jobs Plus staff is trying to alert the residents, educate them, and prepare them for the fact that this is coming. She said that the staff is impressing on participants the need to start saving now in order to be ready for the change.

Ms. Hall mentioned that the case managers have been working one on one with the residents educating them on how they need to prepare and how RRHA can help. She said that additional options, such as homeownership, have been discussed with individuals who have a flat rent amount or close to it. She said these individuals have been encouraged to meet with financial partners to determine their eligibility to participate in these programs.

Ms. Hall stated that RRHA will have a Bank On wellness class. Bank On does a six week in-depth class on saving and financial empowerment, which is normally held at a local library and an incentive of around \$100 is given for residents who save a certain amount. She said that Bank On will hold the same class for Lansdowne Park residents only; it will not be open to the public.

Ms. Hall shared that Jobs Plus is also working with Bank On and Healthy Roanoke Valley on another initiative. Bank On Roanoke Valley applied for a grant to work with RRHA to create a community health worker and financial coach position at Lansdowne Park and Villages at Lincoln. Unfortunately, they did not receive as much money as they applied for but she said that she believes between what they received and RRHA funds, it will still work. Jobs Plus will begin looking for an individual, ideally from Lansdowne Park or Villages at Lincoln, to go through the trainings. Ms. Hall explained that right now the Roanoke Valley has several community health workers employed at New Horizons and Carilion Clinic. She said that this person will receive the same training. They will be able to build relationships and engage families, identify risk factors in the families and connect the families with the resources that can address those issues. It is a good opportunity that Ms. Hall said she hopes can be sustained long term.

Ms. Hall mentioned that Ms. Thomas has been working with businesses around town on financial empowerment centers that will hopefully start in the summer. She said this is part of the effort to ensure that Jobs Plus participants still have access to resources when the HUD grant ends. She stated that some of the slack can be picked up by the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) department, but there are a limited number of employees and, if everyone in Jobs Plus wanted to participate in FSS, it might put a strain on the case managers. Ms. Hall stated that, hopefully between FSS and the community, the needs of the residents at Lansdowne Park will be met.

Responding to Commissioner Burruss' inquiries Ms. Hall said that the Jobs Plus staff who will no longer be employed when the grant ends consist of a program manager, three case managers, an administrative assistant, and one resident ambassador. She said that those employees are aware that as of September 30, 2019, the grant and their employment will end. Ms. Hall stated that, while RRHA would benefit from having them stay until the grant ends, she is aware that affected employees are exploring other employment options, and she is not going to hold them back from doing what is best for their families.

Commissioner Burruss commented that Ms. Hall could not honorably replace the employees because they are only needed until September, but it is also understood that they may need to make other choices. She complimented Ms. Hall on her report.

Ms. Hall responded to Commissioner Burruss' question, stating that RRHA will still make referrals to community resources but as of September 30, 2019, the funds used to pay for childcare and transportation assistance will no longer be available.

In response to Vice Chair Anguiano's question concerning a successor program,

Mrs. Goh said that there has been no further information from HUD concerning the EnVision Centers. HUD announced one round of selected communities, after which RRHA staff had a phone call with the regional administrator who said he felt very confident of RRHA's selection in the next round, but there has been no further communication on a second round to date. Vice Chair Anguiano stated that it appears that, even if RRHA is selected for the EnVision Center initiative, there will be a gap between the conclusion of Jobs Plus and the new initiative. Mrs. Goh agreed that, although it is possible that the EnVision Center selection could occur before the Jobs Plus grant ends, it is highly likely that there will be a gap, rather than a seamless transition.

Commissioner Burruss mentioned the sixteen percent increase in employment and stated those individuals were probably not employed at the beginning of the grant. She said she is aware of the challenges encountered in helping someone become employed, so she believes that increase is very impressive. Commissioner Burruss asked how many individuals are represented by that sixteen percent increase. Ms. Hall stated that the sixteen percent equates to around 145 individuals.

Responding to Chair Garner's inquiry, Ms. Hall confirmed that the individual hired in the collaboration with Bank On and Healthy Roanoke Valley would be someone who is trained as a community health worker and a financial advisor. She said that Bank On is working with RRHA on the funding for the financial worker, and RRHA wanted to add the community health worker.

Chair Garner asked if there were any comments or questions. There were none.

4. Committee Reports

Chair Garner asked if there were any committee reports, comments or questions. There were none.

5. Commissioner Comments

Chair Garner stated that he would read a statement on behalf of the RRHA Board of Commissioners:

The City of Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing Authority provides housing assistance as part of its core mission, and we take our responsibility to the community very seriously. Recently, social media commentary has included a great deal of inaccurate information regarding RRHA's actions relative to tenants housed in properties owned by Limited Liability Companies in which former City Council Member John Garland has an ownership interest. We believe it is important to set the record straight regarding RRHA's actions in this situation.

RRHA operated housing assistance programs under an Annual Contributions Contract with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). HUD provides funding for assisted housing and, in return, RRHA must abide by HUD's regulations and policies, including its conflict of interest regulations. Adhering to these regulations and policies is no optional, and RRHA's failure to comply would jeopardize its ability to continue operating these critically important assistance programs. According to HUD's conflict of interest rules, included in the Annual Contributions Contract, a housing authority cannot enter into a contract with any public official who exercises functions or responsibilities with respect to the projects of the housing authority during the public official's tenure in office or for one year thereafter.

RRHA was recently informed by former Council Member Garland that several of his properties were leased to participants in the Housing Choice Voucher program administered by RRHA. RRHA has not at any time stated that former Council Member Garland engaged in any intentional wrongdoing. However, it was not possible for RRHA to identify this ownership independently because the names of the Limited Liability Companies do not reveal who has ownership interest, and the State Corporation Commission filings available for public review also do not list owners. The Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) contract that RRHA executes with landlords does contain an assurance to RRHA by the landlord that no public official has a direct or indirect ownership interest in the property.

Once the situation was discovered, RRHA was required to self-report the potential conflict to HUD. In similar situations, HUD has declared all payments to the landlord to be an unallowable use of federal funds and required the housing authority to reimburse the program from non-federal funds for all payments made to the landlord. As of December 2018, the amount that had been paid to properties in which former Council Member Garland had an ownership interest during his tenure on City Council totaled approximately \$50,000. RRHA informed HUD that future payments to these properties, beginning January 1, 2019, would be made from non-federal funds. Unfortunately, RRHA's pool of non-federal funds is very limited and, particularly with the effects of the federal government shutdown, response from HUD may be delayed for an extended period.

Therefore, in order to assure continued rental assistance to these individuals, RRHA has informed former Council Member Garland that the tenants may have to relocate to properties for which RRHA is not prohibited from making assistance payments with federal funds. At no time has RRHA threatened to evict tenants; in fact, RRHA is not a party to the lease and could not initiate any eviction action. RRHA has stated only that the tenants would be assisted with relocation so that their voucher assistance payments can continue uninterrupted.

Because providing housing assistance to people who need it is of highest priority to RRHA, the agency must place high importance on compliance with HUD regulations and policies that are applicable to the funds we receive to provide that assistance. We are working through this unfortunate situation in a way that minimizes negative impact on those we serve.

Chair Garner recognized Ms. Carter to address the Board. Ms. Carter stated that the tenants will still need to relocate, that they are the ones who are essentially being punished because of some bureaucracy, and that does not feel fair to her. Chair Garner stated that it does not seem fair to him either but it is the rule, and RRHA must comply with HUD rules and regulations. He explained that HUD controls the funds and if the rules are not being followed they can determine if RRHA receives funding for assistance payments. Chair Garner stated that it is not a very good situation, but RRHA is trying to minimize the impact on the tenants.

Ms. Carter said that having to pack up and find a new place is not exactly

minimal, but she gets the point.

Commissioner Burruss mentioned that RRHA is still waiting on a response from HUD and even with the government having reopened; it is unknown when a response will be received. RRHA is hopeful that an exemption will be provided.

Mr. Loftis said that under HUD regulations the owner/recipient, former Council Member Garland, must initiate the process and request the exemption. Mr. Loftis said that Mr. Garland's attorney has indicated that they intend to apply for a waiver but he is not aware of whether that has been initiated.

Responding to Commissioner Burruss inquiry about the time sensitive nature for the tenants and whether it was appropriate to nudge Mr. Garland's attorney along, Mr. Loftis said that he has been in contact with the attorney regularly.

In response to Commissioner Kepley, Mrs. Goh said that some comments have been made by Mr. Garland in the media and on social media, and Mr. Loftis agreed that there have been a number of media reports. Commissioner Kepley indicated that the statement Chair Garner read clarified the situation and asked whether it should be submitted to the newspaper, possibly as a letter to the editor.

In response to Ms. Carter, Commissioner Kepley explained that the limited liability companies do not state who the owners are for each property and that the owners must certify there is no conflict. Ms. Carter said she disagreed and stated that Garland Properties was on the side of the building so it should be a dead giveaway as to the owner. Commissioner Karnes stated that Garland Properties is not the owner of the properties where the affected tenants reside.

Ms. Goh added that the properties in this case are not owned by Garland

Properties they are owned by LLCs that have names that do not contain Garland. Commissioner Kepley said that he believes it is helpful to know these facts, and he believes that setting the record straight is important because people believe RRHA is trying to do something wrong when the rules are just being followed.

Vice Chair Anguiano added that due to this situation RRHA will be diverting the resources that could be used to benefit other residents and tenants and having to make good on a situation that was not created by the housing authority.

Mrs. Goh pointed out one thing that should not be forgotten is that, while it is not easy to move, if the tenants remain in the building RRHA would be paying the rent from non-federal funds, meaning that RRHA would be terminating their voucher assistance, from HUD's perspective. If the rent is not being paid from federal funds the tenants would no longer be in the federal program which is really punishing people. The tenants would lose their voucher assistance, and it would probably be four years or more before there is another chance to apply for a voucher. She said that RRHA's proposal to relocate them, absent a quick response from HUD or a waiver, was really to ensure that they do not lose their vouchers. She stated that remaining in a property where RRHA is prohibited from paying with federal funds will essentially terminate their assistance from the program.

Chair Garner stated that from the information he has and what Mr. Loftis explained, the housing authority is doing everything within its power to reduce the impact this has on the tenants. Hopefully, a positive response to the waiver request will be received which will enable the tenants to remain where they are, and RRHA would be able to resume payments with HUD funds.

In response to Commissioner Kepley's comment, Mrs. Goh stated that in the past the Board Chair has submitted an op-ed to the Roanoke Times in a few situations. Commissioner Burruss stated that RRHA does not want to escalate the situation and, unfortunately, submitting an op-ed may do that. After discussion by the Board it was determined that an op-ed will not be submitted at this time.

In response to Ms. Carter's question, Chair Garner said that after a year Mr. Garland will be eligible to be a Section 8 landlord.

Commissioner Smith responded to Ms. Carter, stating that the Joint Resident Council did not go into partnership with Mr. Garland due to the potential for a conflict of interest.

Mrs. Goh informed the Board that Ms. Sparks personally spoke with the affected tenants and made sure they understood what was taking place and that they are not in jeopardy of losing their housing assistance at this point. Ms. Sparks informed the tenants that any information relative to their situation will come directly from RRHA, and they should not worry about anything they see in the news or social media platforms. Mrs. Goh emphasized that the tenants are the ones affected, for everyone else it is just a topic of interest. She stated that she believes that RRHA has demonstrated a commitment to do everything possible to ensure uninterrupted housing assistance to the tenants because they have clearly done nothing wrong.

Vice Chair Anguiano added to Commissioner Burruss' comment that Mr. Garland had the best intentions of providing affordable housing. He said that he believes there may not have been a full appreciation of the difference between the state and federal rules regarding conflict of interest. He stated that RRHA is not

necessarily pointing fingers of blame, but would like to make sure that it is understood that RRHA is doing the best it can to resolve the situation.

Commissioner Burruss said it is really up to Mr. Garland to provide correction because he knows what the truth is, and he has been informed of that through his attorney. She stated that she is disappointed in the comments that have been made in public and social media. Commissioner Kepley agreed that was a point he was trying to make, and that it painted RRHA as the bad guys.

Vice Chair Anguiano said that RRHA does not get credit often enough for the good work it does and too often gets blamed for things that are not necessarily RRHA's fault.

Mrs. Goh mentioned that, having been here nearly thirteen years, she sees a bit of irony in how RRHA received much negative media coverage and negative public perception years ago when RRHA had violated HUD's conflict of interest policy and today, RRHA is experiencing the equivalent response for taking steps to make sure RRHA does not violate HUD's conflict of interest rules. She said it seems like perception normally defaults to the housing authority not acting in good faith or in the best interest of the community or the people served. Mrs. Goh stated that she does not like that perception any more than the commissioners do, but it has often been her experience over the years at RRHA.

In response to Commissioner Burruss' request, Mr. Loftis said that he would be happy to talk with Mr. Garland's attorney, and ask that the record be set straight. Chair Garner said that Mr. Garland might think he has already set the record straight. He stated that he does not see a need for further public statements unless additional

incorrect information comes out in the media or on social media.

Chair Garner asked if there were any additional Commissioner comments.

There were none.

6. City Council Liaison Comments or Discussion

Chair Garner asked Council Member Osborne if she had any comments. Ms. Osborne said that she wanted to update the Board on moving the bus station from Campbell two blocks over to the parking lot at the Museum. She stated that move was met with some resistance at the City Council meeting; people were concerned about the implication and impact on residents and businesses. She said that it came as a surprise because, although this is something the City has been working on for the past three years, the public is just now being informed. Council Member Osborne stated that a lot of work was done in closed session to protect the integrity of the transaction. She added that, while it may not be the perfect location, it was the one they were able to acquire. She said that it will position them nicely to have a reception space for people who get off the Amtrak train particularly for those individuals who have never been to Roanoke before. Council Member Osborne explained that there may be more transportation options congruent with the train and the bus schedule in the future. She said that the City would be able to use the trolley to move people from the train to the bus and she believes the new station will benefit people in public housing. Council Member Osborne added that, moving forward, the City would like to receive as much community input as possible.

Chair Garner thanked Council Member Osborne asked if there were any additional City Council Liaison comments or questions. There were none.

7. Residents or other community members to address the Board

Chair Garner asked if there were any additional comments or questions. There were none.

CONSENT AGENDA

C-1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners held Monday, December 17, 2018.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Dispense with the reading thereof and approve as recorded.

C-2 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners held Monday, January 7, 2019.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Dispense with the reading thereof and approve as recorded.

C-3 Monthly Operations Report for the month of December 2018.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: File as submitted

Commissioner Burruss introduced a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Smith and upon roll call the following vote was recorded:

AYES: Commissioners Anguiano, Burruss, Garner, Karnes, Kepley, Smith

NAYS: None

Chair Garner thereupon declared said motion carried as introduced.

II. REGULAR AGENDA

1. Executive Session

Commissioner Smith moved that the Commissioners enter into Executive

Session for the purpose of consultation with legal counsel retained by RRHA regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel and discussion of specific personnel matters of RRHA in accordance with Virginia Code Sections 2.2-3711(A) (1) and (8).

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Karnes and upon roll call the following vote was recorded:

AYES: Commissioners Anguiano, Burruss, Garner, Karnes, Kepley, Smith

NAYS: None

The Board of Commissioners entered into Executive Session at 4:02 p.m.

Certification

Commissioner Smith introduced a motion stating that the members of the Board of Commissioners hereby certify to the best of their knowledge that only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered by the Board in the immediately preceding Executive Session.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Burruss and upon roll call the following vote was recorded:

AYES: Commissioners, Anguiano, Burruss, Garner, Karnes, Kepley, Smith

NAYS: None

The Board reconvened into open session at 4:48 p.m.

III. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner

Burruss moved that the meeting be adjourned.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Smith and upon roll call the following vote was recorded:

AYES: Commissioners Anguiano, Burruss, Garner, Karnes, Kepley, Smith

NAYS: None

Chair Garner declared the meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.


Ed Garner, Chair


Glenda Edwards Goh, Secretary-Treasurer

