

COMMISSIONERS' EMERGENCY ELECTRONIC MEETING  
*May 29, 2020*

**Resolution(s) Passed:**

20-07 Resolution of the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority Authorizing  
the Approval and Affirmation of New Acting Chief Executive Officer

**MOTIONS:** Young/Jones

**VOTE: Aye:** Blount, Kessler, Young, Jones

**ABSTAIN:** None

**ABSENT:** Olds, Harrigan, Coleman

MINUTES OF THE EMERGENCY ELECTRONIC MEETING  
OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF  
RICHMOND REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY  
HELD VIA GOTOMEETING  
IN RICHMOND, VIRGINIA  
ON FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2020

**In Attendance via GoToMeeting:**

**Board of Commissioners**

Veronica G. Blount, Chairman  
Neil Kessler, Vice Chairman  
Samuel S. Young, Jr.  
Robley Jones

**Absent**

Marilyn Olds  
Elliott Harrigan  
Jonathan Coleman

**Legal Counsel**

George Keith Martin, McGuireWoods

Chairman Blount called the meeting to order at 5:43 p.m. with George Keith Martin serving as Legal Counsel. A quorum was established.

**Legal Counsel Comments**

This meeting is an electronic meeting called and conducted in accordance with City of Richmond Ordinance No. 2020-093 (the "Ordinance"), which was ordained under the authority conferred unto the City by Va. Code § 15.2-1413. The Board is meeting by entirely remote means and a quorum of the Board is not physically assembled. The Board is conducting an electronic meeting due to the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, which has made it unsafe for a quorum of Board members to physically assemble in a single location. RRHA's Board of Commissioners is a "public body" within the meaning of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (Va. Code § 2.2-3700 *et seq.*), as well as Section 1(B)(5) of the Ordinance, in that the members of this Board are appointed to office by the City Council.

Notice of this electronic meeting was published on RRHA's website on Friday, May 29, 2020. That Notice identified that this meeting will be an "electronic meeting" within the meaning of the Ordinance, that the meeting will be conducted through GoToMeeting, and that members of the public could observe and, if applicable, participate in the meeting. Specific instructions to access the meeting by Internet and by phone were disclosed in the Notice. The Notice also directed members of the public to a link at which they could register to deliver public comments in real time in accordance with the Citizens' Comment provisions of this Board's Bylaws. All such requests to speak are delivered to Priscilla Jackson, Executive Administrative Assistant.

Members of the public must register in advance to make public comments in accordance with the Board's Bylaws. To do so, members of the public must access an online link by which they can provide the information required by the Board's Bylaws. These comments must be made at electronic meetings of this Board in real time through the GoToMeeting application, either by Internet or by phone.

In accordance with the Bylaws, no member of the public may address the Board unless they have registered to speak, or have otherwise been called upon by the Chair to speak. Accordingly, all members of the public are instructed to disable any audio or video broadcasts until and unless the Board has called upon such individual to deliver comments. If a member of the public refuses to disable an audio or video broadcast after having been warned to do so by the Chair, then the individual may be permanently banned from the remainder of the meeting.

Please disable your audio and video broadcasts now.

All members of this body in attendance at this meeting are participating electronically. The members who are participating in this meeting include: (1) Ms. Veronica G. Blount, the Chair; (2) Mr. Jonathan Coleman, (3) Mr. Robley S. Jones, (4) Mr. Neil S. Kessler, the Vice Chair; (5) and (6) Mr. Samuel S. Young, Jr.

Members are reminded that all voting during this electronic meeting must be conducted by roll call vote. When a motion is on the floor, I will call each member by name, in alphabetical order, to state their vote individually, until all members are polled.

I have no further comments.

**Citizen Information Period**

No citizens were scheduled to speak.

**Closed Session**

At 5:40 p.m., Commissioner Jones asked to go into Closed Session and read the following motion:

I move that we go into closed session to consult with legal counsel and staff regarding the following matters:

- (1) *Discussion of the resignation of specific public officers; particularly, the Chief Executive Officer of the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority; and*
- (2) *Discussion or consideration of prospective candidates for employment or promotion, particularly the appointment of an acting Chief Executive Officer.*

**1 Motion: (Jones/Young) Move to go into Closed Session.**

**Motion Carried**

**Absent: Olds, Harrigan, Coleman**

At 5:53 p.m., Commissioner Jones asked to leave Closed Session.

**2 Motion: (Jones/Young) Move to leave Closed Session.**

**Motion Carried**

**Absent: Olds, Harrigan, Coleman**

***CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING***

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority (the "Board") convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3711(B) of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, requires a certification by the Board that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Board.

**Resolution(s)**

**Agenda Item No. 1** - Resolution of the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority Authorizing the Approval and Affirmation of New Acting Chief Executive Officer

**(20-07)** WHEREAS, the Chief Executive Officer is the Executive Director and chief executive and administrative officer of the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority ("RRHA"); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 5 of the Bylaws of the Board of Commissioners of RRHA (the "Bylaws"), the Board of Commissioners (the "Board") may employ an Executive Director, who shall be known as the Chief Executive Officer; and

WHEREAS, such Chief Executive Officer shall serve at the pleasure of the Board, with such compensation as may be determined by the Board, and pursuant to such written employment contract as may be authorized by the Board; and

WHEREAS, Damon E. Duncan's services as Chief Executive Officer with RRHA ended on May 29, 2020; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution dated May 20, 2020, this Board acted to appoint Stacey Daniels-Fayson as Interim CEO, with such appointment to become effective on June 22, 2020; and

WHEREAS, it is the will of this Board that until Stacey Daniels-Fayson's appointment as Interim Chief Executive Officer becomes effective at 12:01 a.m. on June 22, 2020, Terese Walton shall be appointed to serve in Ms. Daniels-Fayson's stead as Acting Chief Executive Officer and administer, manage and direct the affairs and business of RRHA, subject to the policies, control and direction of the Board of Commissioners;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of RRHA:

1. Stacey Daniels-Fayson's appointment as the Interim Chief Executive Officer of RRHA effective June 22, 2020 is affirmed and ratified;
2. Effective immediately and until 12:01 a.m. on June 22, 2020, Terese Walton is hereby appointed, approved, and affirmed as Acting Chief Executive Officer of RRHA;
3. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption;
4. To the extent necessary for the unambiguous interpretation of this Resolution, the Board's Resolution dated May 20, 2020 is hereby amended to be consistent with this Resolution in all respects; and
5. Veronica G. Blount and Neil S. Kessler, as the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board and on behalf of RRHA, are hereby authorized to negotiate and execute any agreements necessary to delineate the

terms of Terese Walton's appointment, which may include compensation and other related terms.

**3 Motion: (Young/Jones) Move to adopt Resolution 1.**

**Motion Carried**

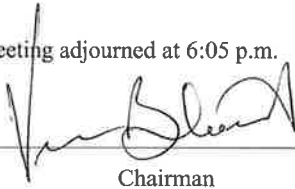
**Absent: Olds, Harrigan, Coleman**

Veronica Blount provided the following comments as a citizen and not as Chairman of the Board or on behalf of the Board of Commissioners. She said *"It needs to be understood that when Damon Duncan left our employment, he left with his head held high, he was not terminated. He did what he was supposed to do; he did nothing unethical. I've spoken with our field office person at HUD and nothing was found to be unethical so I want to make that known. He left our agency better than when he came here and besides leaving it better when he left here, he also left a path for us to continue on with a trajectory of which he had started with him at the realm. But I need to say something else as well because it bothers me when we as a board have company business, that should stay company business, and we take care of our own. I for one support our staff and professional work that they do. But people need to understand that as board commissioners, we have an obligation to be board commissioners. We are not supposed to involve ourselves in operations. So when we have a board meeting and we have a closed session, what happens in that session should stay in that session. I am adamantly asking and advising all of the current board members to not talk to the press about board business, now you can do what you want as an individual not representing the board, but there were statements that were made to the press that did not represent the agency or the board. There were statements made to the press that were made by an individual on the board and that individual is the person who made those statements; it does not represent the board. With that being said, personally I feel that it's one thing to have your own opinion, and everyone has their right to it, but when a board member leave a board meeting and immediately attacks a person's character to the media, that's something that I do not want to shine upon the agency or the board because that was not representative of how the board felt about Mr. Duncan. He left here as an upward standing CEO; he left this agency, I'll say it again, better than it was before. I for one am glad that he did work with us and I have to also say that in the current climate that we are living in today, not just COVID, but if you look at our community of Richmond and you see the residents that live in the communities in which we serve, a majority of them are black and brown people and we have to be very, very careful about how we represent ourselves as an agency of people who serve people. So when you look at the history of Richmond and how things have been done in history and how black people have been treated, and you look at what's going on today all over the United States, including Minneapolis and Richmond, it leaves a very bad taste in the mouth when in this very city where we have statues and other things that black and brown people look at as micro-aggressions against us, we have to be careful about the things that we say and the things*

*that we do. When we have people that represent us that look like us, and our residents look up to those people and then someone tries to assassinate their character, that is another micro-aggression against us and that is not a good look. So I'm going to repeat, that board member's actions were not representative of our agency, those statements he made in the press were not representative of the board. I felt that that needed to be said to set the record straight".*

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.



Chairman



Interim Chief Executive Officer/Secretary