

For Immediate Release

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## **STATEMENT FROM RRHA BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS** ***RRHA Chairperson Veronica Blount Resigns as Chair***

During a special board meeting, Commissioner Veronica Blount asked the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority (RRHA) Board of Commissioners to accept her resignation as Chairperson. Her announcement comes following a year and a half of service, and a lengthy discussion with her fellow Board members. Commissioner Blount will remain a valued member of RRHA's Board of Commissioners. Until a new chair is selected, Commissioner Neil Kessler will serve as acting Chair of the Board in his capacity as Vice Chair. The Board will elect officers for the remainder of the current term at its next regular meeting in April. The Board intends to ask Commissioner Kessler to finish out Commissioner Blount's term, which runs through October 2021.

"I have not resigned from the Board. I have however resigned from my Chair Position and it is now in the most capable hands of Neil Kessler. It has been an honor to serve as the Board Chair, however, I will be embarking on some new community engagement activities which will enable me to be much more useful to residents and community stakeholders with more support. I will continue to be an active Commissioner and will now be able participate, vote, and Chair on standing committees. I will remain a member of the Family Self Sufficiency Coordinating Committee. The good work continues," said Blount.

The Board of Commissioners of the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority wishes to thank Commissioner Veronica Blount for her service as Board Chair over the last year and a half. Veronica has led the Authority through some of its most challenging times, and despite having to address several operational changes and a global pandemic, the Authority has maintained its standing in the community and with HUD. "We appreciate Commissioner Blount's commitment to serving Richmond's most vulnerable residents," stated Commissioner Kessler.

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