

29  
9-15-01

\_\_\_\_\_  
NAME OF COUNCIL MEMBER

**CONTESTED APPOINTMENTS**

**ENDORSED BY**

ALEXANDRIA REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING  
AUTHORITY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
(4-Year Term)  
2 Citizen Members

\_\_\_\_ Charles Bengel

\_\_\_\_ Michele Chapman\*

\_\_\_\_ Gregory Flemister

Alexandria Resident Council  
Ladrey Highrise Advisory Board  
Alexandria Black and Hispanic  
Concerned Women  
D. Wallace Adams-Riley

\_\_\_\_ Carter Flemming

\_\_\_\_ Sonya Floyd

Alexandria Resident Council  
Ladrey Highrise Advisory Board  
Alexandria Black and Hispanic  
Concerned Women  
D. Wallace Adams-Riley

\_\_\_\_ Thomas Goffe

\_\_\_\_ Brian Holland

\_\_\_\_ Lara Johnson

\_\_\_\_ Shirley Marshall

\_\_\_\_ Arthur Mosley

\_\_\_\_ Ellen van Bever

Dorothy M. Brown  
Provost, Georgetown University  
Paul McElligott  
Executive Director,  
Perry School Community  
Services Center, Inc.  
Gloria I. Mobley

\_\_\_\_\_  
\* Incumbent

(CONTINUED)

NAME OF COUNCIL MEMBER

**CONTESTED APPOINTMENTS**

**ENDORSED BY**

**ALEXANDRIA REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING  
AUTHORITY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

(4-Year Term)  
2 Citizen Members

\_\_\_\_\_ Darryl Whitehead

Alexandria Resident Council  
Ladrey Highrise Advisory Board  
Alexandria Black and Hispanic  
Concerned Women  
D. Wallace Adams-Riley

\_\_\_\_\_ Charles Wilson

\_\_\_\_\_ Justin Wilson

29  
9-15-01

DATE: SEPTEMBER 10, 2001

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND  
MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: BEVERLY I. JETT *fej*  
CITY CLERK AND CLERK OF COUNCIL

SUBJECT: APPLICANTS FOR ARHA POSITION

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As of today, we have received eight e-mail responses to Councilman Euille's e-mail to applicants for the ARHA position. They are as follows:

1. Gregory Flemister
2. Carter Flemming
3. Shirley Marshall
4. Art Mosley
5. Darryl Whitehead
6. Charles H. Wilson
7. Justin Wilson
8. Charles Bengel

29  
9-15-01



gregoryflemister@yahoo.com

09/10/01 10:25 AM

To: Beverly I Jett@Alex  
cc: mayoralx@aol.com @ INTERNET, billclev@home.com @ INTERNET, vote4eberwein@aol.com @ INTERNET, delpepper@aol.com @ INTERNET, dspeck@aol.com @ INTERNET, council-woodson@home.com @ INTERNET, wmeuille@wdeuille.com @ INTERNET

Subject: <No subject>

Mayor Donley and  
Members of the City Council Alexandria, VA

Distinguished persons, I thank you for this opportunity to present some of my reasons and qualifications in applying to be a member of the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority board. My motivations and insights regarding the task of serving ARHA are as complex as challenges to the board itself. Nevertheless, I will attempt to be thorough as well as concise in the time I am allowed in the brief forum. My motivation for applying to the board is that I am certain that housing and social service need of residents severed under ARHA can be much better met than they are at present. I was urged, in good concise, to meet the needs of residents disaffected with the ARHA board and its administrator. My training is in public service, economics, psychology, social logy, and political science. I have earned the trust of ARC, the Ladrey Senior Citizens Board, church groups and a whole social spectrum of citizens throughout the city. They believe I would be a fair, compassionate and fiscally responsible board member. I worked for over a decade earning the trust of citizens though crime watch, voter registration and get out the vote efforts. The immediate task for ARHA is the development of the Berg in lieu of a losing 6.7 million dollar grant offered by HUD under the Hope VI program. The loss of this potential investment for the city would prove a tragic financial waste. This enhancement would add to the city tax base as well as replace decaying housing stock for ARHA. There is, however, perhaps a less vocalized concern for urgent investment in human capital, the social services, provided by ARHA. Motivation, training and education of residents is central to insuring the financial solvency of ARHA in the immediate future. The learning center, social services and job training should be monitored for their effectiveness. There is a need for the board to show direct interest in the residents and their social progress. I would gladly be directly involved. Maintenance, as well, needs better management. I look forward to meeting these challenges and more with you. I appreciate this opportunity and I thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Gregory Flemister



Flemmom@aol.com  
09/10/01 10:18 AM

To: Beverly I Jett@Alex  
cc:  
Subject: Response to ARHA Questions

29  
9-15-01

I am interested in serving on the ARHA Commission because I have grown increasingly concerned over the condition of our public housing units and the apparent failure of the ARHA Commission to hold themselves or management responsible for allowing the situation to deteriorate to its current level. As a participant in the Red Cross Friendly Visitor program, I have had the opportunity to observe the operation of Ladray House first hand. That experience increased my awareness of the problems our public housing residents face. I have been a participant in recent meetings held by The United Way and The Red Cross to examine the conditions in which our elderly citizens are living and the role that city non-profits might play in improving those conditions. I have attended the last two ARHA Commission meetings and was frankly shocked and saddened to see the open hostility that exists between the residents and management.

I believe it is the responsibility of the ARHA Commission to foster a climate of trust and honest communication between those delivering services and those receiving services. The impending redevelopment of The Berg is obviously a highly charged political and economic issue and I am afraid that unless steps are taken to repair the working relationships between the residents, the Commission, and management, any decisions made about The Berg will be met with suspicion and mistrust. My service and leadership on numerous community boards gives me a background to understand how a board should operate in order to exercise its fiduciary and managerial oversight functions. I believe I would bring a fresh perspective and a willingness to listen to all sides to my service on the ARHA Commission. While there are many issues facing Public Assisted Housing in Alexandria today, I believe the biggest challenge is the restoration of public confidence in ARHA's ability to manage its assets in a competent manner while treating its clients with compassion and professionalism. Open communication and accountability are keys to meeting that challenge.

Thank you for your consideration. Carter Flemming

29  
9-1501



goodhousing@ioip.com

09/10/01 02:01 PM

To: Beverly I Jett@Alex

cc:

Subject: ARHA - Applicant Information

Thank you for providing this opportunity to let the Council know a little more about ARHA applicants. My name is Shirley Moana Marshall and I hope the following information is helpful to you.

#### RESOURCES/SKILLS/EXPERIENCES

- Expertise and knowledge from 10 years as a professional in the non-profit housing industry. In my current position, as head of a housing agency in Fairfax County, I am familiar with most of the issues in creating and maintaining decent and affordable housing. Our agency both rents housing and provides supportive services to tenants. Like any landlord, public or private, I am familiar with the good (tenants using this opportunity to improve their lives) and the bad (tenants refusing to pay rent or creating disturbances which lead to eviction). I am familiar with both the legal and practical operation of rental housing, as well as the broader issue of using housing to help people stabilize and improve their lives.

- Familiarity with housing leaders and the broader Northern Virginia community. I am an appointed member of the Fairfax County Homeless Oversight Committee (due to my work being in the County); and past chair of the Human Services Coalition of Northern Virginia.

- Important skills for this position include (a) excellent communication skills with people from a broad range of economic, ethnic, and social backgrounds; (b) from committee work, able to keep discussions focused and moving forward, while encouraging involvement from all members; (c) from management and leadership experience, able to consider broad range of implications or consequences that may result from a proposed action and then make a thoughtful decision. - Connected to the Alexandria community. I grew up in Alexandria and my family still lives here and attends the same faith community (Beverly Hills Community Church). After living overseas in the military (Air Force) and during college and law school, I lived for a few years in Washington DC before returning to Alexandria. For the past three years, I have lived in the Del Ray section of the city.

**CHALLENGES:** The challenges facing PAH programs in Alexandria are so intertwined that I can not say solving any one will solve the others. The following is my personal view of these challenges: lack of trust, inherent conflict, and cost of housing.

**LACK OF TRUST.** There appears to be a lack of trust on all sides of the current housing debates. People feel their voices are not heard, that other voices are heard too often, and that they are not treated as part of the community. Community is more than just the buildings. Community is the connections people establish with each other through shops, schools, neighbors, faith communities, and civic or social associations. I believe we must stay focused on our common values (decent, safe housing) and connections, in order to move any discussion forward to acceptable action. There is an **INHERENT CONFLICT** in a program designed originally as short-term or temporary housing which now faces a completely different housing market. The current private marketplace does not provide many options for low-income working poor, disabled, or elderly. Combining

practical business practices with a mission to serve people who have few resources of their own is never going to be an easy mix.

Too often, the focus of housing discussions becomes who is most deserving and how do we judge them deserving, rather than how do we serve the larger need and build a community. HOUSING COSTS MONEY is a simple fact, which no amount of understanding can change. There must be some commitment of resources. The federal and state governments are not providing all the funds to meet the need. This is unlikely to change, especially when the perception outside the area is that Northern Virginia already has wealth and privilege. In the long run, plans must be made to deal with the provision of supportive housing which will be part of the Alexandria community fabric and not another battleground. Again, thank you for this opportunity to provide a some additional

information. I want to serve this community and believe that my skills and experience fit in best with the ARHA. Shirley Moana Marshall

703.299.9784 (h)

703.768.9404 (w)

goodhousing@ioip.com



mosleyart@hotmail.com  
09/10/01 11:39 AM

To: Beverly I Jett@Alex  
cc: mosleyart@hotmail.com @ INTERNET  
Subject: ARHA Appointment

29  
9-15-01

Art Mosley  
703-820-6184

Subject: Responses to the ARHA appointment questions

[Brief explanation as to why you are interested in the ARHA position]

I believe that ARHA is one of the most important commissions in the City and one that has direct and immediate impact on many lives. The issues that have faced public housing in Alexandria have been economically, racially and historically faceted and sometimes emotionally charged.

Shortly after moving to the City in 1992, I became interested in the public housing development, which was only blocks away from the Potomac Club apartments where I lived. I also lived in public housing in Camden, NJ where I was born and then moved to Midland, TX where I was raised by a single parent who successfully moved from public housing and worked throughout my formative years. I became a homeowner in Alexandria in 1995 and live at Kingsgate.

I've been professionally success in my career field and active in the community for many years in various capacities. I would like to serve on the commission as part of my continuing community service to the City.

I believe I have the background and skills to contribute positively to the housing authority and its tenants where I would be objective, goal oriented and sensitive to the needs of all stakeholders

[What special resources, talents, skills and community service experiences you possess, which would benefit the various public assisted housing programs, for which ARHA is responsible?]

I am strong and objective leader who is not tied to any organization that would color my opinion on issues facing public housing.

During my time in the U.S. Navy, I served as a housing supervisor where I was responsible for the living conditions and housing quality of life issues.

Additionally, I have served the city as Chair, Early Childhood Commission, Vice Chair, Economics Opportunities Commission and member, Human Rights commission and various other organizations where I worked with community groups, business leaders and city officials on issues affecting the working poor and citizens on public assistance.

Moreover, for over three years I have produced and hosted a public access television program that is aired in Alexandria that has been used to inform Alexandrians on a wide range of the issues. I am also a senior manager for private sector company where I utilize my organization, managerial and communications skills to successfully manage large projects and its associated personnel.

SUMMARY OF PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:



I have over 12 years of progressive and proven experience in the information technology field. My experience includes the project management, design, implementation, and support of heterogeneous networking environments.

#### COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

- „h 2001 jV present; Member, National Junior Tennis League Board of Alexandria
- „h 1998 jV present; Host/Producer, Alexandria Impact public access T.V. program
- „h 1998 jV 2000; Member, Alexandria Human Rights Committee
- „h 1998- 2000; Youth Policy Committee: subcommittee on Early Childhood
- „h 1997-Present; Council Member, Virginia Council on Human Rights
- „h 1997-1999; Adjunct Instructor, ICTS/Old Dominion University
- „h 1997-Present; Board Member, Community Partner for Children (formerly Ho Ho Ho)
- „h 1996 - 2000; Member, Salvation Army Advisory Board. Served on fundraising committees.
- „h 1996-Present; Life Member, National Association of Colored People (NAACP)
- „h 1995 - Fundraising Captain, Alexandria Scholarship Fund.
- „h 1995-Present; former Chairman, Alexandria Early Childhood Development commission
- „h 1994-Present; Vice Chairman, Alexandria Economics Opportunities appointed by the Alexandria City Council.
- „h 1994 jV Present; Member, Alexandria Chamber of Commerce
- „h 1994 jV 1999; Former 1st Vice President, Alexandria Evening Lions Club
- „h 1993-1995; Mentor, Alexandria Untouchables a youth group of at risk males ranging from ages 7-21

[Also, what do you think is the most important challenge confronting Public Assisted Housing Programs in Alexandria?]

The most important issues facing the public assisted housing program in Alexandria are as follows:

1. The replacement of the Berg housing complex in Old Town
2. Tenant organization/involvement in governance
3. Safety/living conditions
4. Access to opportunities/education/job linkage and job creation
5. Staff accountability
6. Impact of welfare to work
7. Communication/engaging the community
8. Changing demographics/displacement/waiting lists
9. Teen pregnancy/drug use/general health issues
10. Establishing and enforcing high standards of personal and community responsibility



darryl.whitehead@worldnet.att.net

09/10/01 10:41 AM

To: Beverly I Jett@Alex

cc: mayoralx@aol.com @ INTERNET, billclev@home.com @ INTERNET, vote4eberwein@aol.com @ INTERNET, delpepper@aol.com @ INTERNET, dspeck@aol.com @ INTERNET, council-woodson@home.com @ INTERNET, wmeuille@wdeuille.com @ INTERNET

Subject: Darryl Whitehead's ARHA response

29  
9-1501

Greetings Mayor Donley and City Council:

In response to Councilman Euille's email, I welcome the opportunity to present reasons for my interest in becoming a member of the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority Board.

Over the past several years, I have noticed housing residents' needs to be included in the "fabric" of Alexandria. The "fabric" of Alexandria consists of, but is not limited to such issues as the inclusion in determining the direction of housing, and getting proper social and health care. Other important issues include programs to build responsible character in children, assistance in job training to lead toward self-sufficiency and involvement in public policy procedures. No one should be left out of these civic responsibilities based on their economic circumstances.

The ARHA board previously had programs geared toward self-determination for the housing residents, but now that is all but a distant memory. Programs such as KREW (Kids are Responsible Workers) provided Alexandria public housing youth city jobs and, in return, school supplies to reward them for a job well-done. Business and educational training in radio station operations, affordable day care to assist working mothers, a functional learning center and back to school programs to let fellow housing residents meet one another and discuss their children's educational needs.

I have and currently meet regularly with Alexandria's public housing residents to assist them as an advocate for their housing issues and career advice. My background as an instructor and teacher of high school students in Algebra, Calculus, Geometry, Trigonometry and SAT preparation gives me insight into what math is used for and how they will encounter it in the work force. Furthermore, I assist college seniors in tasks such as securing their first job, how to negotiate salaries and finding affordable housing. Regardless of the parents' economic status, all children need to feel like productive citizens who are empowered to become contributing members to society. That includes children in public housing.

My experience in RFP and grant proposal writing can assist ARHA in obtaining funds from HUD and other sources. The most important grant now facing ARHA is the Hope VI. These funds would greatly assist in improving the current condition of housing in Alexandria. With these funds, I also offer financial responsibility and accountability that money will be used for designated purposes.

· What do I have to offer ARHA and the residents?

Basic human compassion and a strong leader who can get the job done for the city.

· What is the most important challenge confronting Public Assisted Housing Programs in Alexandria?

The task of ensuring that the responsibility of ARHA will be taken seriously and plans will be executed; from the development of the "Berg" to the residents' well-being.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to list my reasons for wanting to join ARHA. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely

Darryl Whitehead  
(703) 549-7460  
Darryl.Whitehead@Worldnet.att.net

MR Eville,

29  
9-15-01

9/19/01

Thank you for a chance to present my reasons for serving on the ARHA. First, I have lived on both sides of "the track". I grew up with grandparents in a prosperous neighborhood in Chicago, but at age twelve circumstances forced my family to public housing (Robert Taylor Homes) on the infamous south side. Because of this I can bring a unique perspective to the ARHA that amounts to a hybrid reality. Moreover my background can help restore confidence in the ARHA by the constituents the ARHA was created to serve.

Additionally I have easy access to Claire Freeman, a former boss who is a nationally recognized expert in improving public assisted housing. She was credited with solving the problems we have in Alexandria as head of the Cleveland OHIO public housing authority.

My community service experiences that would benefit Alexandria include 3 years on the board of the Northern Va. Hatterie, 10 years on the Board of the Cameron Station Credit Union and 3 years as V.P. on the Civil Service Commission in Fairborn OHIO where I helped overcome stalemate between militant unions and city officials.

Unfortunately the most important challenge confronting ARHA is to win the confidence of both the taxpayers and the residents of our public housing. To this end the Council should select commissioners who understand, who care, and who can make the right things happen with consensus building.

Finally, my reasons for seeking this responsibility are pure. I have no political, economic or ego driven motives for serving. Since I've been so blessed, my faith compels me to share my gifts with my community. I'm convinced that I can successfully balance my responsibility to the Alexandria taxpayers, my faith and the residents of our public housing.

Mr. Eville your altruism inspired me to seek this position. If I can be as helpful to Alexandria as you have been, then I can leave this world, feeling I have made a difference and fulfilled the purpose for which I was sent here.

Respectfully

Charles H. Wilson.



justin@justin.net  
09/10/01 02:29 PM

To: Beverly I Jett@Alex  
cc:  
Subject: ARHA Appointment (fwd)

29  
9-15-01

Beverly,

I had sent a letter to each of the members of Council regarding my application for this appointment, so I don't have too much to add to that. However, I will write a little blurb to respond to Councilman Euille's inquiry:

For this appointment, I will obviously not draw on a wealth of experience in housing issues--as I freely would admit that is not experience that I have. However, I do have a experience in organizations and in managing business, and I think that my experience dictates that in situations where an organization is beset with a contentious past, sometimes that organization is best served by bringing in new blood. This, I believe, is my biggest strength in seeking this appointment.

I think that I will come to the decisions to be made on the ARHA board without my mind made up, and with a fresh perspective. My experience in the community and in business shows me that sometimes this is the best way to approach these issues. I would look forward to working with those with the institutional knowledge, as well as fresh voices like my own to work on many of the pressing issues that confront public housing administration in the City. It is my belief that the most pressing issue for ARHA at this point is trying to unpoliticize the process and trying to forge some compromises on contentious issues.

Thanks for your consideration. ----- Forwarded message -----

Date: Thu, 6 Sep 2001 15:33:33 -0400

From: Denise Harrison <deniseh@wdeuille.com>

To: charli3601@aol.com, mchapman@acps.k12, flemmom@aol.com, ddstnr3@aol.com, thomas.goffe@occ.treas.gov, BHoll74364@aol.com, Tara.johnson@home.com, goodhousing@ioip.com, mosleyart@hotmail.com, vanbever@home.com, Darryl.Whitehead@worldnet.att.net, Ethoswill@juno.com, justin@justin.net

Cc: mayoralx@aol.com, billclev@home.com, vote4eberwein@aol.com, delpepper@aol.com, dspeck@aol.com, council-woodson@home.com

Subject: ARHA Appointment

Date: September 6, 2001

Dear Applicant:

Thanks for your sincere interest in seeking appointment to the Alexandria Redevelopment & Housing Authority Commission.

It would be most helpful, not only to me but to my Council Colleagues as well, if you would provide a brief explanation as to why you are interested in the ARHA position and what special resources, talents, skills and community service experiences you possess, which would benefit

the various public assisted housing programs, for which ARHA is responsible?  
Also, what do you think is the most important challenge confronting Public Assisted Housing Programs in Alexandria?

Please be kind enough to reply via email, no later than Monday, September 10th - to (beverly.jett@ci.alexandria.va.us).

Your prompt attention would be most appreciative.



Charli3601@aol.com

09/10/01 05:08 PM

To: Beverly I Jett@Alex  
cc:  
Subject: ARHA Appointment

29  
9-1501

Dear Council Members,

I have been interested in community involvement in the city since I relocated here from Tallahassee, FL two years ago. I feel that becoming involved in the ARHA commission would allow me that opportunity.

I am a residential property manager and Realtor in Alexandria, managing 220 units throughout Northern Virginia. I believe that experience, partnered with my education in Criminology, Law Enforcement and Political Science would be an asset to ARHA. I am very aware of the real estate market in Alexandria and the struggles that lower income individuals face to make ends meet, especially with skyrocketing rents and other expenses. I am a young person and further believe that I would bring a fresh perspective to the board.

The shortage of housing for low income individuals is a significant problem, approaching a crisis level, throughout Northern Virginia. Therefore, I believe the most significant challenge to ARHA is allocating enough housing to cover all individuals that desperately need it, while transferring other individuals to beneficial programs such as Habitat for Humanity and Section 8. I strongly believe that those with an ownership interest in something tend to take much better care of it. The Section 8 program, which still remains a governmental nightmare for owner-landlords and property managers, must be retooled and expanded so that landlords will become willing to participate in it.

I appreciate your consideration.

Regards,  
Charlie Bengel



Sent to Rose



29  
9-15-01

CHRIST CHURCH

September 6, 2001

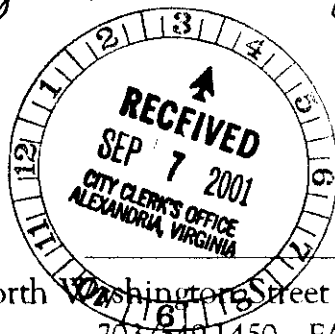
Dear Mayor Donley  
and Members of City Council,

It is with high hopes that I write to you regarding the upcoming appointments to the board of the Alexandria Rehabilitation Housing Authority. I would like to recommend Mr. Greg Flemister to you, to be appointed to the board. I have met with Greg and am confident that he would make a good addition to your board. He is intelligent, articulate, and passionate about the welfare of the people who live in public housing in Alexandria.

I do appreciate your consideration. Please let me know if I can be of help in any way -

yours truly,

D. Wallace Adams-Riley





CHRIST CHURCH

September 6, 2001

Dear Mayor Donley and  
the Members of City Council,

It is my pleasure to write to you regarding the upcoming appointments to the board of the Alexandria Rehabilitation Housing Authority. I would like to recommend that Ms. Sonya Floyd be appointed to the board. I have met with Ms. Floyd and I am impressed with her commitment to the people of the Berg and, more generally, to the people who live in public housing in Alexandria. She is articulate, genuine, and intelligent and would, I am confident, make a very good addition to your board.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Please be in touch if I can be of help.  
Yours truly,

A. Wallace Adams-Riley

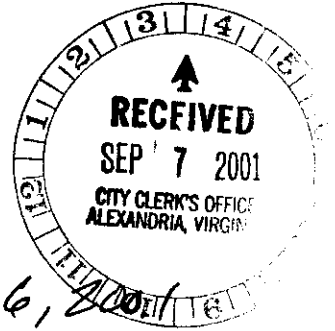
118 North Washington Street • Alexandria, Virginia 22314

703/549-1450 • FAX 703/683-2677





CHRIST CHURCH



September 6, 2001

Dear Mayor Donley  
and Members of the City Council,

It is with a deep sense of purpose that I write to you regarding the upcoming appointments to the board of the Alexandria Rehabilitation Housing Authority. I would like to encourage you to appoint Mr. Darryl Whitehead to the board.

I have gotten to know Darryl and I am most confident that he will make a very good addition to the board. Darryl is a man of intelligence and integrity. He is articulate and compassionate. He knows the people who live in public housing, he knows the issues, and he is deeply committed to the welfare of those who live in public housing.

Thank you for your consideration. Please be in touch if I can be of assistance in any way —  
yours truly,

118 North Washington Street • Alexandria, Virginia 22314  
703/549-1450 • FAX 703/683-2677

S. Wallace Adams-Riley

Sent to Rose

29  
9-15-01

September 4, 2001

Candidates for Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Board, Darryl Whitehead, Sonya Floyd and Gregory Flemister have our the support

These candidates came to us and asked for our support before submitting their applications for the ARHA Board of Commissioners. After meeting with these applicants and asking numerous questions, we were satisfied that they would serve out their posts with fairness and adherence to rules and regulations. We, the legally elected representatives of the residents, urge you to support these recommendations. Such an act on the part of you, the Mayor and City Council, would provide progress in improving what has been for the past several years an ARHA Board of Commissioners that has been dysfunctional in its relationship with its residents.

Let us know that our city government is genuinely concerned about our wellbeing.

Name of Organization: Alexandria Resident Council

Name: Cheryl A. Mitchell

Title: 1st Vice President

Name of Organization: L H A. B President

Name: Otis G. Weeks Otis G Weeks

Title: President

Name of Organization: ARC) Alexandria Resident Council

Name: Thomas L Jones (PETA)

Title: President

Name of Organization: Alex Black HISPANIC CONCERNED WOMEN

Name: Barth & Juan

Title: President



~

Sent to Rose

29  
9-15-01

This letter is to express the strong disapproval of public housing residents to the reappointment of Mike Reed and Michelle Chapman to the ARHA Board. Both contributed to the failure to develop the Berg. Their harsh treatment of residents and their representatives in ARC, forced the matter into court. The city wide advisory board, senior citizens and ARC would find the city council and mayor's reappointment of these board members detrimental to their welfare. We request that the city government be responsible and compassionate and not inflict further damage with their reappointment. Appointing Mike Reed and Michelle Chapman again to the ARHA Board would prove regressive to recent progress made in ARHA and city council relations with housing residents.

Name of Organization: Alexandria Resident Council

Name: Cheryl A. Mitchell

Title: 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

Name of Organization: Ladrey High-Rise Advisory Board President

Name: Otis G Weeks Otis S. Weeks

Title: President

Name of Organization: (ARC) ALEXANDRIA RESIDENT COUNCIL

Name: Thomas A. Jones (PETE)

Title: President

Name of Organization: Alex Black + HISPANIC CONCERNED WOMEN

Name: Ruthy E. Turner

Title: President



Sent to Rose

PF

August 30, 2001

29  
9-15-01

The Honorable Kerry J. Donley  
Mayor  
City of Alexandria  
City Hall – Suite 2300  
301 King Street  
Alexandria, VA. 22314



**RE: RECOMMENDATION FOR ELLEN VAN BEVER'S CONSIDERATION  
FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE ALEXANDRIA REDEVELOPMENT HOUSING  
AUTHORITY**

Dear Mayor Donley:

It is with great pleasure that I recommend Ellen van Bever for appointment to the Alexandria Redevelopment Housing Authority. Ms. van Bever and I have worked extensively together over the past fourteen (14) months at the Perry School Community Services Center, Inc. (PSCSC), where she is a member of the Board of Directors and Chair of the Board Development Committee.

PSCSC, Inc. is a comprehensive social and community services center that houses twelve (12) organizations dedicated to empowering and serving the needs of the Northwest One Corridor in Washington, D.C., one mile from the U.S. Capitol. Six of the twelve groups housed in the Center include: Bright Beginnings, a day care facility for children who are homeless or live in transitional housing; Center City Community Corporation, a community and social services nonprofit; College Bound, a resource center for children interested in pursuing an undergraduate education that helps students identify colleges and scholarships, and helps them prepare for college entrance examinations; the Dance Institute of Washington, a premier arts organization that has been featured in the local and national press; Jubilee Jobs, an employment training and counseling service for the unemployed and underemployed; and Perry Family Health Center, operated by Providence Hospital and providing medical care for infants, adolescents, adults and seniors. Having the twelve community-based organizations in one location in this low-income community allows PSCSC to provide a holistic and integrated service delivery system.

Ms. van Bever is to be commended for her leadership of the Center's Board Development Committee. PSCSC, Inc. was the recipient of the Meyer Foundation's management assistance grant in May 2000. The grant program is designed to strengthen the infrastructure of nonprofit organizations, and build their capacity and sustainability. Having successfully completed a \$5.62 million renovation of the facility that the Board purchased and recruited tenant programs, the organization needed to address infrastructure, leadership and board development issues. The Board Development Committee was charged with addressing several major issues, including revising the bylaws, developing new committee descriptions and roles, overseeing the development of



Page Two

Letter of Recommendation:

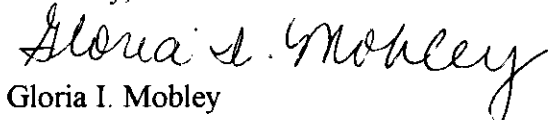
Ellen van Bever

a board handbook, and identifying potential board candidates to infuse the Board with new leadership.

These are not easy issues for any board of directors to tackle. When you consider the challenging climate in which Perry's Board of Directors operates -- under the leadership of a board chair who suffers from what is commonly known as "Founders Syndrome," passive-aggressive behavior of some board members, and a culture where the Chair is not held accountable for her conflict-of-interest actions -- many would run, not walk away from this scenario. Ms. van Bever exercised considerable skill in mobilizing a core group of board members on the Board Development Committee to tackle the problems. She adeptly controlled the agenda and facilitated the meetings, keeping committee members focused. She created a setting where her colleagues were encouraged to express their opinions and have a productive dialogue about complex issues. As chair of the committee, she enlisted the help of committee members in presenting its recommendations to the Board of Directors for approval, a move that increased the "buy-in" of the committee. Her spirit of inclusiveness ensured approval of over 30 recommendations as submitted, except for one. Ms. van Bever earned the respect of all her board colleagues.

This is no simple accomplishment, given the potential for criticism of having a white woman chair this critical committee of a community-controlled Board of Directors. At one point she wondered whether her ethnicity would have an impact, in a city where race matters. I believe that it was because of her deep commitment to the disadvantaged and those at the bottom of the economy, her spirit of inclusiveness, her ability to be a firm and open, and her leadership skills, Ms. van Bever helped to successfully address issues that will determine the long-term sustainability of the Perry School Community Services, Center. I highly recommend her as a candidate for the Alexandria Redevelopment Housing Authority without reservation. She will serve the city and Alexandrians well!

Sincerely,



Gloria I. Mobley

Former President/Executive Director of Leadership  
Washington and Executive Director, Keep Washington,  
DC Beautiful

Cc: Alexandria City Council Members

Rose Boyd, Commission of Boards and Commissions;  
Office of Citizen Assistance