MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
HELD AT 1002 N. SCHOOL STREET, BLDG. E
ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2008,
IN THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU, STATE OF HAWAII

The Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority met for their Regular Meeting at 1002 N. School Street, on Friday, February 15, 2008 at 12:30 p.m.

ORDER/ ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Travis Thompson and, on roll call, those present and absent were as follows:

PRESENT:
Director Travis O. Thompson, Chairperson
Director Eric Beaver
Director Anne Marie Beck
Director Rene Berthiaume
Director Sherrilee Dodson
Director Carol Ignacio
Director Clarissa Hosino
Director Kaulana Park
Director Linda Smith
Designee Henry Oliva
Director Matilda Yoshioka

Executive Director, Chad Taniguchi
Deputy Attorney General, Diane K. Taira
Deputy Attorney General, Krislen Chun

STAFF PRESENT:
Barbara Arashiro, Acting Contracts & Procurement Officer
James Miyasaki, Application
Lili Funakoshi, Hearing Officer
Sandi Miyoshi, Homeless Program Administrator
Derek Kimura, Property Management & Maintenance Services Branch Chief
Dexter Ching, Section 8 Subsidy Program Branch Chief
Mary Jane Hall Ramiro, Applications
Taryn Chikamori, Secretary to the Board

OTHERS:
Alisha Leisek, Senator Chun Oakland's Office
Alyn Vasquez, Neighborhood Board 15
Amber Kekahu, Puahala Homes Resident
Au Tufu, Honolulu Community Action Program
Beatrice Kobayashi, Private Resident
Bernie Young, Neighborhood Board 15 Chairperson
Chan Gaaluu, Puahala Homes Resident
David Yaw, Resident Advisory Board (RAB)
Desiree Kihano, Resident Advisory Board (RAB)
Donald Nitta, Member of Neighborhood 14
Doran Porter, Affordable Housing Alliance
Emily Viglielmew, Representative Rhoads Office
France Abaya, Puahala Homes Resident
Francis Nishimura, Private Resident
Gerald Kita, Representative Shimabukuro's Office
Grace Rabor, Puahala Homes Resident
Gregory Abaya, Private Resident
Hideo Kobayashi, Private Resident
Jerry Vasconcelos, Puahala Homes Resident
Jolene Cruz, Puahala Homes Resident
Ken Harding, Neighborhood Board 15
Lani Rivera, Puahala Homes Resident

Linda Vehemente, Puahala Homes Resident
Lisa Talu, Puahala Homes Resident
Michael Erice, Puahala Homes Resident
Monique Ocampo, Resident Advisory Board (RAB)
Monte Kalama, Puahala Homes Resident
Robert Stubbs, Neighborhood Board 14 Chairperson
Roy Matsunaga, Private Resident
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, State Senator
Sharon Kekahu, Puahala Homes Resident
Shawnee Kalama, Puahala Homes Resident
Theresa Cummings, Resident Advisory Board (RAB)
Tim Garry, Private Resident
Toni Estes, Private Resident
Tracey Comell, Puahala Resident
Utu Longi, Next Step Manager
Vickie Milo, Puahala Homes Resident
Vivian Chee, Private Resident
Yuen Chee, Private Resident

QUORUM

Chairperson Thompson declared a quorum present.

BOARD POLICY FOR TENANTS AT PUAHALA HOMES

Chairperson stated Decision Making: Board Policy for Tenants at Puahala Homes will be discussed.

Chairperson Thompson asked the Board of Directors if it is okay to limit the people who are testifying to 3 minutes per person plus one minute to finish for a total of 4 minutes.

The Board of Directors unanimously agreed.

Chairperson Thompson stated the meeting was requested by the Chairperson of the Senate and House committee of the Human Resources and Public Housing Committee. He received by fax on January 3, 2008 a letter "I would appreciate your Board's immediate attention to this matter to review and request a reconsideration of the recent board decision."

Chairperson Thompson stated Chad Taniguchi, Executive Director, raised the question of legality of the Boards action in October 2007. Based on the request Diane Taira, Deputy Attorney General, has responded.

Chairperson Thompson stated the legal question raised was whether the Board can legally make the decision to remove 14 units from state public housing at Puahala Homes for homeless transitional shelter use. The written opinion from Deputy Attorney General Taira was the Board of Directors had full authority to make the decision during the October 2007 Board of Directors meeting which is specifically to approve the removal of 14 units at Puahala Homes from the state public housing inventory to be used for the Homeless Programs Branch as a transitional homeless shelter not to exceed two years.

Chairperson Thompson asked for public testimony.

Ms. Bernie Young, Neighborhood Board 15 Chairperson, stated that the Board of Directors should not have taken action without public input and due process. Kalihi has high concentration of public housing, elderly housing, care homes, and drug houses. The neighborhood does not need transitional housing to be added to the area.

Mr. Robert Stubbs, Neighborhood Board 14 Chairperson, stated they had their neighborhood Board meeting on Monday, February 11, 2008. He listened to all the people who spoke and the Board had no consensus on this matter. His personal opinion is that he is in favor of the transitional shelter. He believes the

homeless shelter rules are an improvement to the rules that currently govern Puahala Homes. Although, he is concerned about the affect on Lanikila Elementary School as this will be the school many children will be attending.

Donald Nitta, Neighborhood Board 15, stated he would like to see this project succeed. It would improve the conditions and help people get back to a normal life.

Yuen Chee, private resident, stated he is against this program. The Board is putting more problems in the neighborhood. This is like asking the people in Waimanalo would you like another landfill in your area. He is against the project.

Sharon Kekahu, Puahala Homes resident, stated she feels she was misinformed, misled and harassed. She is against the project. Chairperson Thompson asked how you were harassed. Ms. Kekahu said trees were cut in front of her building and her building has nothing to do with the project.

Francis Nishimura, private resident, stated the intent of Puahala Homes is for public housing. The different rules for transitional housing and Puaahla Homes tenants are a big concern. The tension that this will cause will be brought to the community. The strict rules only tell the community that the Board recognizes the need for strict rules but many homeless people have publicly declared that they do not want to live by these rules. Even if the staff visits them in their apartments daily what happens outside when they are on the streets in the community. Even if staff removes tenants on their first offense they have already caused the harm because they might not have been caught the first time. The Board did not give the public notice of using Puahala Homes as transitional housing. At the neighborhood board only one person spoke for this project out of several dozen.

Alisha Leisek of Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland's Office, handed out letter that was a response to Mr. Roy Matsunaga which reiterates Senator Chun Oakland's stance that she is against the program unless she can get in writing from residents of Puahala Homes and the surrounding areas that they are in favor of the project. Senator Chun Oakland has concerns that having transitional shelters to Puahala Homes might jeopardize the progress the current Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) management has made. Senator Chun Oakland has spoken to her colleges and with the exception of Representative Corinne Ching none of the Senators or Representatives who signed the letter has changed his/her mind.

Tim Garry, private resident, stated his concern that the units have not been used for years. At the top of Puahala Homes there is a parking lot that in the evening if you want to buy drugs that is the place to go. How is the area going to get uplifted if the state keeps dumping things in the area? He is opposed to the transitional shelter.

Amber Kekahu, Puahala Homes resident, stated that the residents were not properly notified. We as residents have to deal with the people coming in, not the Board. Director Yoshioka asked what your definition of transitional people is. Ms. Kekahu responded by saying homeless.

Lani Rivera, Puahala Homes resident, stated her concern is about youth gangs coming into Puahala Homes.

Chairperson Thompson welcomed Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland and asked her to say a few words.

Senator Chun Oakland stated there is a concern with the Legislators with the decision that was made and although this is temporary there has been an effort to stabilize public housing, resource it appropriately, and to get the waitlist down.

Vivian Chee, private resident, is concerned that the project does not answer the

Vivian Chee, private resident, is concerned that the project does not answer the problem of the homeless. If the homeless is put in the area temporarily there will be no pride. There will be tension between the permanent residents and the temporary residents. The units should be fixed and used as permanent housing.

Monte Kalama, Puahala Homes resident, is against transitional housing. Puahala Homes was built for public housing. The people who are homeless can go through the same application process that all the other residents went through to get a unit.

Roy Matsunaga, private resident, stated that this will impact Lanikila Elementary School, Kawanankoa Middle School and McKinley High School. He feels that public housing should not be extended to transitional housing.

Ken Harding, Neighborhood Board 15 member, has a passion for the homeless but he feels that the Board needs to listen to the community. The problems of public housing will not be solved by using it as transitional housing. Take the time to educate everyone before taking any action. Director Beaver asked are you for or against the project. Mr. Harding responded at this time with the information he has, he is against the project.

Beatrice Kobayashi, private resident, felt that this will have an impact on the schools. She feels that this should be taken care of in a more organized way. The residents were not informed. Please take care of the community.

Hideo Kobayashi, private resident, stated the process that was taken was wrong. Information was not given to the community. If you put two different resident communities together the Board is setting up a scenario for friction.

Vickie Milo, Puahala Homes resident, stated her concern was that the community was not notified. The residents want to give their comments and concerns. If they were notified appropriately she believes this could have been worked out. The residents were told this was a done deal and now she found out this is not a done deal, it's still in the process. The residents are willing to help fix and rebuild the units if needed. She is against the Board's decision.

Jerry Vasconcelos, Puahala Homes resident, stated that the road needs to be fixed.

Theresa Cummings, Resident Advisory Board (RAB), stated the wait list for public housing is in the thousands. Throughout the state there has been thousands of dollars spent on reducing homelessness. There has been improvement in public housing. She asked that the Board do more research and get more input from the public.

David Yaw, RAB member, stated that one of the items in the public housing plan is homelessness but none of the RAB members were notified about this project. Homelessness is a problem but the understanding was the homeless people would have a preference into a stable home not a transitional home.

Monique Ocampo, RAB member, stated public housing is "transitional". People who are in homeless transitional housing are already on the wait list. HPHA should pull these people off the list and put their applications through the process to put them into public housing.

Desiree Kihano, RAB member, stated this is a quick fix. This problem is going to go around and around. When they have to move out from Puahala Homes they will go to the next shelter.

Mary Jane Hall-Ramiro, Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) employee, stated it is hard for her as an employee to convey fairness to families who have been on the waitlist from 1995 only to have to tell them they have to wait longer because a homeless family will be placed in the units. These families may not meet the eligibility requirements that are required by law. Public housing is not a

quick fix to solve the homeless situation; it is a stepping stone to something greater-homeownership and independence.

Senator Chun Oakland stated that the Legislators were not notified of the Board action; she found out from a resident. She requested Senators, Representatives, Neighborhood Boards and RAB be put on the mailing list to receive HPHA's agendas.

Chairperson Thompson asked Director Smith to explain how Puahala Homes was picked.

Director Smith stated that the Next Step Shelter was set up May of 2006. This was a temporary basis that expires on June 30, 2008. There are around 300 individuals sleeping at the Kakaako shelter. The families still need a place to go. HPHA staff had noticed that Puahala Homes had some vacant units that were vacant for a number of years. The focus is on families because the singles need more of dormitory type of situation. Most children are very young and not of school age. The other children are who are attending school are attending Central Middle School and they want to continue attending Central Middle School.

Utu Longi, Manager of Next Step, stated there are about 30 families at the shelter currently and 14 families will be selected to live at Puahala Homes. There are 55 children and 19 of these children are under the age of 3. Part of the process in selecting the families are one or both parents needs to be employed, all school age children need to enter school, and they have to show progress in their program. Also before entering Next Step they were drug tested and a background check was done. They are trying to help the homeless be successful in their lives.

Mr. Taniguchi requested that everyone support the request to the Legislature to get $20 million to provide a permanent transitional shelter. There are 3 components associated with HPHA: Section 8 Programs, Homeless Programs and Public Housing Programs. Section 8 and Homeless programs are running fine; the problems are with public housing. The homeless program needs are infringing on the public housing needs. The solution is not to put the problem on the public housing program. He stated Director Smith believes it is important to honor the commitment that Next Step made to move out the Kakaako property by June 30, 2008. What about HPHA's commitment to honor the alleviation of the people on the waitlist. He does not feel that the needs of the people at Next Step are more important than the needs of the people on the waitlist. The reason Puahala was suggested as a transitional shelter was because in May 2007 Norman Ho thought these units would not be fixed within a year. The reason to use these units no longer exists because the Legislature has appropriated $3 million to fix vacant units that need minor repair. The repairs for all 24 units at Puahala Homes should be done by June 30, 2008.

Director Ignacio asked Mr. Longi what will happen to the other 16 families that will not be selected to live in Puahala Homes. Mr. Longi stated Next Step has a transitional plan in place. Director Ignacio asked if the plan is able to expand to 30 families. Mr. Longi stated it is possible.

Chairperson Thompson stated the special meeting will be recessed until February 21, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. in building E — RECESS

The special meeting was recessed at 2:15 p.m.

MATILDA YOSHIOKA
Secretary

Approved