

FINAL STATEMENT FROM THE CITY OF NEW ROCHELLE RE:
TERMINATION OF NEW ROCHELLE MUNICIPAL HOUSING AUTHORITY
("NRMHA") COMMISSIONERS IN DECEMBER 2022

On December 29, 2022, New Rochelle Municipal Housing Commissioners Sheila Small, Michael Yellin, Reverend Harry Dawkins and Haslyn Howard (collectively, the "Commissioners") were terminated from their respective positions with the New Rochelle Municipal Housing Authority ("NRMHA"). Since that time, the City of New Rochelle undertook a review of the Commissioners termination and the operations of the NRMHA including engaging an external third-party auditing firm to audit the financial books and records of NRMHA. Among the key findings of the audit, the auditor determined that there was no financial wrongdoing or malfeasance on the part of the Commissioners.

Consistent with the above findings, the City has determined that each of the Commissioners is eligible for reappointment to the NRMHA in the future. Further, the City intends to reappoint at least one of the Commissioners at the first available opportunity.

It is important to highlight that each former Commissioner has served the NRMHA for a number of years and has worked hard to provide safe, sanitary, decent and affordable housing opportunities for the most vulnerable populations in their community. Under the stewardship of the former Commissioners, whose positions were uncompensated, they were able to elevate the New Rochelle Municipal Housing Authority HUD status from "Troubled" or "Substandard" to "Standard Public Housing Authority Performer Status". The Commissioners also steered NRMHA through difficult times including the recent COVID pandemic.

The City is thankful for the past service of the former Commissioners. As a City, we recognize the years of uncompensated volunteer service that the Commissioners have provided to the NRHMA and its residents, and the New Rochelle community.

By way of background, Ms. Small is an attorney in private practice with extensive expertise in real estate related matters and was first appointed to the NRMHA on January 13, 2004. Ms. Small has been re-appointed to several successive 5-years terms as a commissioner since that time, including as recently as March 9, 2021.

Reverend Dawkins is a long-time municipal housing professional and an expert in municipal low-income and supportive housing, having previously served as the Executive Director of the Tuckahoe Municipal Housing Authority. This Authority was repeatedly recognized as a high performing housing authority by the Department of Housing and Urban Development during his tenure. Rev. Dawkins was first appointed to NRMHA on July 1, 2013, and was recently re-appointed to the Board on April 18, 2018.

Mr. Yellin is a long-time New Rochelle resident and community activist with a history of working with City officials on a number of different boards and committees. Mr. Yellin was first appointed to the Board on November 1, 2017, and was re-appointed on March 31, 2019.

Mr. Howard is a highly experienced financial professional with extensive expertise in derivative securities and structured financial products. Mr. Howard's background includes roles as a practicing attorney and senior positions at a multinational investment bank and at a specialized investment management firm. He was first appointed to the Board on September 18, 2017, and was re-appointed on July 7, 2020.

We wish each of the Commissioners continued success in all of their future professional endeavors.