



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE  
SCOTTSDALE HOUSING AGENCY GOVERNING BOARD  
Special Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, October 21, 2021  
Meeting held electronically**

**PRESENT:** Chair Raoul Zubia, Vice Chair Reilly, Board Members Jayne Hubbard, Jeff Jameson, Roger Lurie, Neal Shearer, and Tricia Serlin

**STAFF:** Greg Bestgen, Director; Irma Hollamby, Community Assistance Manager; Christina Cooley, Housing Choice Voucher Program Supervisor

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Eng called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Members present as listed above.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments submitted.

**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

**1. Welcome & Introductions to the SHA**

Irma Hollamby, SHA Executive Director, provided an overview of the Scottsdale Housing Agency and the roles and responsibilities of the Governing Board. She noted that the Housing Agency Governing Board is a voucher program only and does not own, operate, or administer public housing or any other housing assets. The Housing Choice Voucher Program is a federal program focused on assisting very low income families, elderly, and the disabled to afford decent, safe and sanitary housing in the private market here in Scottsdale. Ms. Hollamby said that the City of Scottsdale has been awarded 735 housing choice vouchers, 20 Foster Youth to Independence vouchers, and 34 emergency housing vouchers.

Scottsdale Housing Agency Governing Board Members will be responsible for becoming familiar with the housing choice finances, activities and performance and attending board meetings, participating in discussions and making recommendations. The mission and purpose of the Board is to ensure that decent, safe, and sanitary housing is being provided to Scottsdale residents.

Commissioners were encouraged to attend the “Lead the Way” web-based training available to Public Housing Authority Governance Boards available on HUD’s website.

**2. Resolution 2021-01 Housing Choice Voucher Payment Standards Effective January 1, 2022**

Christina Cooley, Housing Choice Voucher Program Supervisor, gave a presentation on proposed payment standards that will become effective January 1, 2022. Reports indicate that Scottsdale stands as the tenth most expensive housing market. The Housing Choice Voucher program assists low-income families, elderly, and disabled people afford decent, safe and sanitary housing in the private market.

Ms. Cooley explained that HUD releases fair market rent (FMR) for the county and the Housing Authority is responsible for establishing amounts for each unit size within their jurisdiction. Payment standards cannot exceed 110 percent of the published FMR unless a special waiver has been granted by HUD. Scottsdale Housing Agency recently moved to increase the payment standard to the maximum permitted, in hopes that the increase will increase housing options for new and current voucher holders.

COMMISSIONER SERLIN MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 2021-01 APPROVING THE HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PAYMENT STANDARDS EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2022. COMMISSIONER JAMESON SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR ZUBIA, VICE-CHAIR REILLY, COMMISSIONERS HUBBARD, JAMESON, LAURIE, SERLIN, AND SHEARER VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

**3. Executive Director’s Report**

Irma Hollamby, SHA Executive Director, said that recently 100 people were pulled from the waiting list and offered housing vouchers. The process of helping those people become eligible to receive a Housing Choice voucher will be ongoing for the next few weeks.

Ms. Hollamby noted that she is currently recruiting for the position of landlord liaison. The position will be critical in helping to engage and partner with local landlords.

Chairperson Zubia asked what the offer of vouchers means. Do those who were offered vouchers qualify for housing or will get housing? Ms. Hollamby clarified that they are invited to qualify for housing. Anyone can apply to be on the wait list, but once they are pulled from the wait list, they have to demonstrate that they are eligible by submitting documentation.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions. Ms. Cooley reviewed the process for becoming eligible for a voucher, noting that recipients have 90 days from the time of

receiving their voucher to find housing. If a housing opportunity is not found within that time, applicants can receive two extensions, which gives them a total of five months to find suitable housing. Ms. Hollamby said that statistics show that most recipients find housing within 45 days.

Commissioners commended staff for their efforts and expressed support for the development of a landlord liaison position.

#### **4. Adjournment**

COMMISSIONER SERLIN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER JAMESON SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0) BY ROLL CALL VOTE. CHAIR ZUBIA, VICE-CHAIR REILLY, COMMISSIONERS HUBBARD, JAMESON, LURIE, SERLIN, AND SHEARER VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

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