ITEM D

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF PASSAIC BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING FEBRUARY 19, 2020

PLACE: Community Room

220-222 Sixth Street

Passaic, New Jersey 07055

READING OF THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT:

As required by NJSA 10:4-6 et seq. known as the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting was provided in the following manner: On December 27, 2019 notice of this meeting specifying the date, time and location was published by the Herald News and The Record and transmitted via email to the Clerk of the City of Passaic. Notice was also posted at all HACP sites.

COMMISSIONERS - PRESENT: Alan Juszcyk

Beatrice Johnson Henry Navarro Majin Zuniga

L. Daniel Rodriguez

ABSENT: Delmis Fernandez

Ronald Van Rensalier

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Joann Arroyo

Leidy Brito

Glenny Candelaria

Joanna Lara Natasha Pearson Vincent Wynter

Meeting opened at 6:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioner Juszcyk: Present; Commissioner Johnson: Present; Commissioner Fernandez: Absent; Commissioner Navarro: Present; Commissioner Van Rensalier: Absent; Commissioner

Zuniga: Present; Chairman Rodriguez: Present.

Chairman Rodriguez presented a certificate of appreciation on behalf of the Board of Commissions to James "Ricky" Durant, resident of Vreeland Village, for his kindness, leadership, selfless acts and fellowship.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 22, 2020 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING.

A motion was made by Commissioner Navarro, seconded by Commissioner Zuniga, to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2020 Board of Commissioner's Meeting.

On roll call vote: Commissioner Juszcyk: Aye; Commissioner Johnson: Aye; Commissioner Fernandez: Absent; Commissioner Navarro: Aye; Commissioner Van Rensalier: Absent; Commissioner Zuniga: Aye; Chairman Rodriguez: Aye.

MOTION: MINUTES FOR THE JANUARY 22, 2020 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING APPROVED.

RESOLUTIONS

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF PASSAIC AS CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS. ANY MEMBER OF THE BOARD MAY REQUEST THAT ANY ITEM BE REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA AND BE CONSIDERED SEPARATELY. ALL REMAINING ITEMS WILL BE CONSIDERED TOGETHER.

CHAIRMAN RODRIGUEZ ASKS IF THERE ARE ANY RESOLUTIONS ANY COMMISSIONER WOULD LIKE TO CONSIDER SEPARATELY.

- Commissioner Juszcyk: I have three resolutions I'd like to separate. And I have a question about the agenda, Chairman. I don't see on the agenda any report from the Ad-hoc Committee on security. That was long overdue. We were promised that we would have that. Do you know what the hold up is on that?
- Chairman Rodriguez: Right now we're waiting for Executive Director Mitchell. She is going to give us an update on that. But that will be something that is going to be on the next meeting. Also, the head of the Ad-hoc Committee is not here today to speak on it. I do know that they have met over the last couple of weeks.
- Commissioner Juszcyk: Also, at the last meeting two resolutions were passed terminating Breslin & Breslin from legal contracts. I don't see any type of replacement in the agenda. Is that an oversight?
- Chairman Rodriguez: It's not an oversight. We're actually going to be meeting to go over the RFP process. I wasn't comfortable yet with the process. So were probably going to have a special meeting between now and the next meeting to go over that.
- Commissioner Juszcyk: So in the interim, Breslin & Breslin will still be attorneys until that's decided?

- Chairman Rodriguez: Correct. They are the attorney until the 29th of February.
- Commissioner Juszcyk: So the meeting will be before the 29th of February?
- Chairman Rodriguez: Most likely. If we can get it scheduled.
- Commissioner Juszcyk: Alright. Because that would leave us without an attorney if it was after that.
- Chairman Rodriguez: Well there is a backup plan just in case. And I will let you know that if it comes to that.

Commissioner Juszcyk asked that Resolution 2020-13, 2020-19 and 2020-21 be considered separately.

2020-13 RESOLUTION APPROVING ACCOUNTS PAYABLE FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 18, 2020 THROUGH FEBRUARY 14, 2020.

A motion was made by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Navarro, to approve Resolution 2020-13.

- Commissioner Juszcyk: I separated this resolution so that any commissioner with a relationship with the Passaic Valley Water Commission can either abstain or vote no on payment to the Commission.

On roll call vote: Commissioner Juszcyk: Aye; Commissioner Johnson: Aye; Commissioner Fernandez: Absent; Commissioner Navarro: Aye; Commissioner Van Rensalier: Absent; Commissioner Zuniga: Aye; Chairman Rodriguez: Aye (Abstain on PVWC).

MOTION: RESOLUTION 2020-13 APPROVED.

2020-19 RESOLUTION APPROVING OFFICIAL TRAVEL TO AND FROM WASHINGTON, DC BY COMMISSIONER RONALD VAN RENSALIER TO ATTEND THE 2020 NAHRO WASHINGTON CONFERENCE ON MARCH 29-31, 2020.

A motion was made by Commissioner Navarro, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, to approve Resolution 2020-19.

- Commissioner Juszcyk: Looking over the resolution, there isn't any agenda attached to it. I would like to know what value this would be to the Housing Authority. The cost is over \$1500 for Commissioner Van Rensalier to go to Washington, DC and there's another resolution for three months later for him to go to Atlantic City. So I wanted to know if this is going to be worth out expenditure of over \$1500. What are we going to get out of his attendance at this conference?
- Chairman Rodriguez: I will have Executive Director Mitchell get back to you on this with the agenda to see what exactly is on there. I can't recall off the top of my head.

On roll call vote: Commissioner Juszcyk: Abstain; Commissioner Johnson: Aye; Commissioner Fernandez: Absent; Commissioner Navarro: Aye; Commissioner Van Rensalier: Absent; Commissioner Zuniga: Aye; Chairman Rodriguez: Aye.

MOTION: RESOLUTION 2020-19 APPROVED.

2020-21 RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL FOR OFFICIAL TRAVEL TO AND FROM ATLANTIC CITY, NEW JERSEY BY TWO (2) COMMISSIONERS AND TWO (2) HACP STAFF MEMBERS TO ATTEND THE 2020 NJNAHRO SPRING CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW ON MAY 3-6, 2020.

A motion was made by Commissioner Navarro, seconded by Commissioner Zuniga, to approve Resolution 2020-21.

- Commissioner Juszcyk: This is less than \$1200 per person, ,which is more reasonable. I noticed only Commissioner Van Rensalier listed as attending. Do you know if there will be any other commissioners attending and if the two staff members are indeed going to attend? And if not, can we just save to money and send Van Rensalier?
- Chairman Rodriguez: Commissioner Fernandez also put in for it. He had some timing issue, so he's going to get back to me to see if he can go. If not, I will be going because I have also put in for that. As far as the two employees, Mr. Wynter, would you know the answer to that question?
- Mr. Wynter: No, I do not know the answer.
- Chairman Rodriguez: We'll get back to you on who the two employees are. But because of timing issue, we needed to get this resolution on the agenda.
- Commissioner Juszcyk: I understand. Thank you.

On roll call vote: Commissioner Juszcyk: Aye; Commissioner Johnson: Aye; Commissioner Fernandez: Absent; Commissioner Navarro: Aye; Commissioner Van Rensalier: Absent; Commissioner Zuniga: Aye; Chairman Rodriguez: Aye.

MOTION: RESOLUTION 2020-12 APPROVED.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- 2020-14 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF A CONTRACT EXTENDED FOR SIX MONTHS TO EXECU-TECH, INC. FOR EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT SERVICES FOR A RATE NOT OT EXCEED TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$25,000.00)
- 2020-15 RESOLUTION CERTIFYING INFORMATION TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE US DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) FOR THE SECTION 8 MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (SEMAP) FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2019
- 2020-16 RESOLUTION INTRODUCING THE RENTAL ASSISTANCE DEMONSTRATION (RAD) PROJECT BASED VOUCHER (PBV) LEASE –

	CHESTNUT GARDENS AND VREELAND VILLAGE FOR A 30-DAY RESIDENT COMMENT PERIOD
2020-17	RESOLUTION INTRODUCING PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE ALFRED SPEER VILLAGE-PUBLIC HOUSING LEASE FOR A 30-DAY RESIDENT COMMENT PERIOD
2020-18	RESOLUTION INTRODUCING PROPOSED REVISIONS TO TENANT CHARGE LIST FOR A 30-DAY RESIDENT COMMENT PERIOD
2020-20	RESOLUTION APPROVING PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR HOME BUILDERS (NAHB) LIHTC FOR NATASHA PEARSON AND TANIA PADILLA
2020-22	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ANNUAL RENEWAL FOR SOFTWARE SUPPORT AND UPDATE SERVICE WITH TENMAST SOFTWARE IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED TWENTY-SIX THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND ELEVEN DOLLARS AND TWENTY-FIVE CENTS (\$26,911.25)
2020-23	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING WRITE-OFF OF TENANT ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019

A motion was made by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Navarro, to approve all Resolutions on the Consent Agenda.

On roll call vote: Commissioner Juszcyk: Aye; Commissioner Johnson: Aye; Commissioner Fernandez: Absent; Commissioner Navarro: Aye; Commissioner Van Rensalier: Absent; Commissioner Zuniga: Aye; Chairman Rodriguez: Aye.

MOTION: RESOLUTIONS 2020-14, 2020-15, 2020-16, 2020-17, 2020-18, 2020-20, 2020-22, and 2020-23 APPROVED.

REMARKS BY CITIZENS

The following was read: In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-1 et seq.) The Housing Authority of the City of Passaic opens every public meeting for comments from the public. Each person choosing to speak at the meetings will be limited to five minutes, to speak on any subject, on or off the agenda. All speakers must state their name and address for the record. However, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 "nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit the discretion of a public body to permit, prohibit or regulate the active participation at any meeting"

Therefore, please be advised that the Housing Authority of the City of Passaic will not entertain any comments from persons who communicate obscene material, make statements which are considered bias intimidation in which a person intends to intimidate any individual or group because of race, color, religion, gender, handicap, sexual orientation or ethnicity or makes

comments intending to harass or speak in any offensive language. The person who makes these statements will relinquish their allotted five minutes for public discussion. Any person who persists in speaking out of turn, or interrupts the peace and order of the meeting will be escorted off the premises.

Chairman Rodriguez: Before we start, I would like to say a couple of things. Every person that would like to speak gets five minutes. I want to make sure that everyone has their time and that someone doesn't go over the five minutes or gets cheated out of five minutes. If we can keep it to five minutes. We do have a timer. We do want to hear everyone's concerns. We don't want to discourage anyone from not speaking. We are going to try to make sure it's not a back and forth. We're going to try to answer your questions once everything has come out.

I was hoping Executive Director Mitchell was here. I wanted to give an update on the water issue here at Vreeland Village. I know that is something that's a concern for many. I know that they are diligently working on it. They have made it a priority. Commissioner Juszcyk brought up the security issue. We are also working on that.

Jaroslaw Jackiw "JJ" – **266 Lafayette Ave:** Can the Chairperson advise the public as to the status of the following?

- Public Safety Director for HACoP?
 - Chairman Rodriguez: We're working on that. We should have a resolution at the next meeting. The same goes for the following question.
- Supervisor of HACoP Investigations?
- Shared Service with the City of Passaic PPD and the HACoP?
 - o Chairman Rodriguez: We're working to revamp it.
- Currently, who is responsible in CY 2020 for all HACoP security at all locations within CoP?
 - o Currently, we're working with the Passaic Police Department.
- What action has HACoP Management Board of Commissioners taken to prevent harassment of seniors within their respective locations in CY 2020?
 - Chairman Rodriguez: We don't tolerate it. Ms. Arroyo, is there anything you would like to add about the prevention of harassment of seniors?
 - Ms. Arroyo: I'm not sure what it refers to.
 - o Mr. Jackiw: A lady was expressive at the Gregory Avenue meeting.
 - O Chairman Rodriguez: That's something we addressed at the Gregory Avenue meeting and we took it very seriously.
- Have all HACoP Property Managers taken refreshers courses to address the security concerns of their resident tenants within their respective properties in CY 2020?
 - O Chairman Rodriguez: I'm not sure. That would be a question for the Executive Director.
- What is the status of all my OPRA requests?
 - o Mr. Wynter: Ms. Mitchell is working on them.

Germain Gibson-Williams – 231 Sherman St: I don't know if this will be his last meeting, but I came specifically down here to say to Terry that I heard your contract will no longer be with the Housing Authority. I want to say, the years that I've known you, you were always willing to go in your pocket, you were willing to give the wealth of knowledge to whoever needed it. I

personally feel this will be a great loss to the residents of the Housing Authority of the City of Passaic. I wish you the best in your endeavors, whatever they may be. Hopefully what is brought in is something that can measure up half way of what you have given us. It's bittersweet, but thank you for all you have done.

Derrick Coppin – 356 Dewitt Ave, Belleville: My Church is at 50 Third St. here in Passaic. I showed up last time at the meeting at Gregory Avenue. I left a proposal for exactly what it is I am trying to accomplish. We wanted to have an open air gospel event here for the community, not only for the residents. For me to do that I need to get an approval letter from the Housing Authority to take to Passaic to say 'yes, you are good to go'. So I am waiting on that letter of approval from the Housing Authority. We would also like to present some words of the Bible here at the community center Sunday mornings. It's not preaching, we'd just like to have the residents who can't come out to come here.

- Mr. Corriston: What I do know is that we have a policy for use of the community room. We would have to look at how your request fits in with the policy. I think there is an issue on if it's a resident sponsored event or not. We do not open up these rooms for the public or a particular private enterprise, whether it's religious or not. I will touch base with the director about it.
- Mr. Coppin: Do you have a timeline in which this will happen?
- Mr. Corriston: Looking at the policy should only take a couple of days. There is also an approval process. I don't know what the approval rate is at this point.
- Chairman Rodriguez: I believe Director Mitchell has your information. I'll have her reach out to you this week and give you at least a status of where it's at and what we're doing with it. Right now, I don't know if she'll something more official than what you have provided to us.
- Mr. Coppin: Is that in response to using the facility, or both?
- Chairman Rodriguez: It's for anything. So we will let you know what the process is. We have to make sure we follow the process and we are in compliance with our policy.

Rene Griggs – 23 Aspen Pl. Apt. 6C: I, too, came with the news that Breslin & Breslin will no longer be associated with us. To you, Terry, I would like to say that for over 25 years I have watched you deal with residents in court. Although the outcome may not have been what the resident would like it to be, I want to thank you for your professionalism, your caring, your concern in whatever action the resident had to go through. And for always being a decent sponsor. I'm going to miss you. I know the decent man that you are. I wish whoever comes on board will be half as decent and caring, and concerned and nurturing through these problems with the tenants. I also want to let you know, I may not be here all the time, but I'm always on guard. A lot of things saying are happening in the best interest of the residents. I hope so because it's a word I have on speed dial: IG.

- Chairman Rodriguez: If I may make a comment to that last statement, I've been on this Board for numerous years now and I've been able to serve with different commissioners. This Board does care about the residents. The Board is trying to do the best they can in the best interest of the residents, as well as in the best interest of the Housing Authority. Not everything that is going to be requested is going to be the

answer that they're going to want to hear, but it's going to be the honest answer and it's going to be the answer that meets the needs.

- Ms. Griggs: Like I said, we know how to protect ourselves.
- Chairman Rodriguez: Same here. Thank you.
- Ms. Griggs: And please stop letting politics play a part in this agency.

Evelyn T. Robinson – 222 Sixth St. Apt. 2D: I received my packet and noticed changes with the lease. I know in the past when there are changes you get to compare what those changes were. I need to know what were the changes and were they HUD mandated, policy changes or locally juristicted changes. Speer, which always has been, is in English and Spanish. We have a high population of Spanish speaking residents too and Sixth St.'s isn't. Same thing for the changes for the charges. I thank Chairman Rodriguez for adding a second meeting at Vreeland Village. I'm glad that this meeting is taking place in February so you can see for yourself how dark it is here. We have been complaining and are really concerned about the lighting here on Sixth St. We keep being told that there are surveys being done. What are the outcome of those surveys? There is no follow up. Nothing is sent to residents to let us know what is happening. We deserve to have our health and safety issues met because that is part of the mandate and that is part of the law dealing with public housing and section 8. If we can go around to section 8 apartments and do inspections to make sure the apartments are up to par, we need to do the same with these complexes. I'm asking, after this meeting, if you would be willing to walk around these buildings to see how dark it is.

- Chairman Rodriguez: We're going to make sure we sit down and get answers for the residents. We're going to work on making sure the lights are on and where they're supposed to be at.
- Mr. Wynter: With regards to the lease, the leases are being translated in Spanish. They will be available soon. There is a 30 day comment period so all your concerns can be written and sent to us.

Marybeth Eisenberger – 203 Sixth St. Apt. 3C: How long is it going to take to get pressured hot water? This has been going on since last year. When they changed the hot water tank in my building, that's when it started. That should be #1 on your list. I want to know how much longer it's going to take. I live on the 3rd floor. I've lived here for 20 years and never had a problem with the water pressure before.

- Mr. Wynter: The vendor is selected so they should start working on getting this issue resolved within the next week and a half.
- Ms. Eisenberger: Ok. If we don't have the pressure within a month time, what should we do? Take my rent to Paterson to the Court Clerk and then ya send me to court? Cuz I've lived with slumlords, I'm not saying you're slumlords, and I know how it is when you go to court. And I don't want to do that.
- Commissioner Juszcyk: Last meeting we talked about water situations and, in your role with the PVWC, you said you would have them check the water pressure coming into the facility. Has the Commission done that yet?
- Chairman Rodriguez: Yes, they actually did that. I believe it was a day or two after that meeting. We had the PVWC come out and test the pressure. They're saying it's an internal problem. It's not coming from the street; it's here. Since last month I've

- been getting weekly updates, either from the Coalition or Executive Director Mitchell on what's going on. We're bringing in engineers.
- Mr. Wynter: We have two vendors who have supplies quotes and we will select one of them to do the work.
- Chairman Rodriguez: It's something we're going to be working on very aggressively. We're very sympathetic and empathetic to what's going on. That's why we've made it a priority.
- Commissioner Johnson: Can we have a plan B just in case plan A doesn't work? This has been an ongoing issue. Also requesting more communication with residents.
- Chairman Rodriguez: My directive to the Housing Director Mitchell is has been to make this a priority and to make it work. So if plan A doesn't work, something's going to work. We're going to make sure, we're going to fix it, so this problem doesn't go on. I have been checking up on a weekly basis.

Ann Lewis – 224 Sixth St. Apt. 2A: I am complaining about the doors. Sometimes when I walk in the hallway, you'll find people sleeping. When I have to walk around raccoons and what not. They were just repairing my bathroom and they left all the sheetrock under my radiator and I don't know how to take the cover off to clean it up.

- Chairman Rodriguez: Well if the water situation is priority 1A, the doors are priority 1B.
- Mr. Wynter: There is a scheduled tour of another property with similar door issues.
- Ms. Brito: The tour will be on the 26th of this month.
- Chairman Rodriguez: It's a tour of another agency that's having similar problems and what they have done to fix it. I will, hopefully, be attending that tour. As far as the sheetrock, Leidy, can we have someone go look at that to see how we can get it out from under the radiator.
- Ms. Brito: I can issue a work order to remove the radiator cover so she can clean behind it.
- Ms. Lewis: When you turn the hot water on it comes out cold and when you turn the cold water on it comes out hot.
- Ms. Brito: I can also issue a work order so we can check it.

Michelle Thomas – 200 Sixth St. Apt. 3D: Since we're on work orders, when they came to do my floor in my bathroom, he put my bathroom cabinet in and he didn't complete the job. He didn't put the sink in and he messed up the tile on the wall. The sink part of my bathroom has been under my sink for three years now. I just put the work order in a week and a half ago. Leidy knows about it. Inspectors have been in there several times; they've seen it. Since she told her she'll take care of it, can she let me know when's she's gonna come take care of that piece under my sink?

- Ms. Brito: (inaudible)

- Ms. Thomas: Thank you.

Paulette Gathers – 202 Sixth St. Apt. 3C: Residents are leaving garbage in the hallway. At night, when everyone goes to bed, they leave their bikes and things in the hallway. In the morning before everybody wakes up they put their bikes and stuff back in the hallway. If there's a fire at night, and they would have to run out the building, there's going to be a problem. As far

as the garbage, they're not putting it in the dumpster. They put it in front of the waste baskets in front of the house. Then you have the skunks and raccoons coming to the front of the building. Letters need to be sent out to the residents to let them know they will get a fine for doing these things.

- Chairman Rodriguez: We can definitely do that. We need a little help from the residents, also, to identify who these people are who are doing that so we can address them.

Reynaldo Perez – 222 Sixth St. Apt. 2B: For parking, is there a solution to the parking issue? They took a parking space away and I don't understand why. They never sent a notice. The most important things are security, education and health. You should always keep that in mind.

- Chairman Rodriguez: Mr. Wynter, maybe what we can do is I'll have Ms. Mitchell coordinate with you what's going on with the parking and you can share it with him and the residents.

A motion was made by Commissioner Navarro, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, to close the *Remarks by Citizens* portion of the meeting.

On roll call vote: Commissioner Juszcyk: Aye; Commissioner Johnson: Aye; Commissioner Fernandez: Absent; Commissioner Navarro: Aye; Commissioner Van Rensalier: Absent; Commissioner Zuniga: Aye; Chairman Rodriguez: Aye.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Submitted.

RESIDENT COUNCIL REPORTS

Submitted.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Submitted.

TREASURER'S REPORT/ DIRECTOR OF FINANCE REPORT

Submitted.

DIRECTOR OF HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM'S REPORT

Submitted.

DIRECTOR OF RESIDENT SERVICES' REPORT

Submitted.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Submitted.

SECURITY INVESTIGATOR'S REPORT

Submitted.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Juszcyk: I don't know if this is old business or new business, but I'll say it's old business. Since you assured me that Terry won't be here at the next public meeting, I'd like to take this opportunity to personally thank him for his years of service to the Passaic Housing Authority. You will be missed and I especially appreciate your insights to potential violations of the Open Public Meetings Act. I think it's very important that resolutions not be discussed other than in a public setting, according to the law. So thank you again, Terry, for your service to the Authority.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

A motion was made by Commissioner Zuniga, seconded by Commissioner Juszcyk, to adjourn the meeting.

On roll call vote: Commissioner Juszcyk: Aye; Commissioner Johnson: Aye; Commissioner Fernandez: Absent; Commissioner Navarro: Aye; Commissioner Van Rensalier: Absent; Commissioner Zuniga: Aye; Chairman Rodriguez: Aye.

ADJOURNMENT

7:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Mitchell Executive Director