

**SPECIAL MEETING
HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF TRENTON
HELD TUESDAY AUGUST 15, 2017 12:00 PM
ADM. BLDG., 875 NEW WILLOW STREET**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, John Raines, who announced it was to be noted in the Book of Minutes that the required 48 hours notice of this meeting was mailed to the offices of *The Times*, the *Trentonian* and the Clerk of the City of Trenton, as well as, having been posted in the main entrance of the Housing Authority in accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law also known as the Sunshine Law.

Chairman Raines stated that he has asked Board Counsel to act as Secretary for the Roll Call.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: William Fitzgerald, Shenette Gray, Kim Taylor, and Jessie Tossie, Commissioners; Darlene Weldon-Gordon, Vice Chair; John Raines, Chairman; and Jelani B. Garrett, Secretary/ Interim Executive Director

ALSO

PRESENT: Rocky Peterson, Legal Counsel to the Board, and Francine Nalbhone, Human Resources.

Chairman Raines stated that we have a quorum. Chairman Raines stated that we don't have a printed agenda but the agenda is to adopt the agenda then go into Executive Session to discuss Personnel and Contracts and come back out here to announce our decision on a new Executive Director. Chairman Raines then asked for a motion to accept the agenda.

Commissioner Fitzgerald moved that the agenda for August 15, 2017 be approved; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Gentry and upon a voice vote, as follows, the motion carried:

	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAINS</u>
Com. William Fitzgerald	1		
Com. Shenette Gray	1		
Com. Gary Gentry	1		
Com. Kim Taylor	1		
Com. Jessie Tossie	1		
Com. Darlene Weldon-Gordon	1		
Com. John Raines	1		
Total	7	0	0

Chairman Raines stated the agenda has been adopted.

Vice-Chair Weldon Gordon asked since there is no one from the public here, do we still need to go into the other room.

Chairman Raines stated yes.

Chairman Raines said he will take a motion to go into executive session was moved and properly seconded and upon a voice vote, the motion carries as follows.

	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAINS</u>
Com. William Fitzgerald	1		
Com. Shenette Gray	1		
Com. Gary Gentry	1		
Com. Kim Taylor	1		
Com. Darlene Weldon-Gordon	1		
Com. Jessie Tossie	1		
Com. John Raines	1		
Total	7	0	0

The Board has returned to open session. The purpose of this is the selection of an Executive Director for the Housing Authority. I will call upon each Commissioner who will name his/her preference of the three final candidates.

Com. William Fitzgerald	Lartigue
Com. Shenette Gray	Garrett
Com. Gary Gentry	Garrett
Com. Kim Taylor	Garrett
Com. Jessie Tossie	Lartigue
Com. Darlene Weldon-Gordon	Garrett
Com. John Raines	Lartigue

Rocky Peterson, Legal Counsel stated that the Board has voted for the Interim Director Jelani Garrett to become the Executive Director of the Trenton Housing Authority.

Applause – Congratulations!

Chairman Raines stated that this, like all decisions, has been a challenging one for this body. We had to evaluate three outstanding candidates who bring similar and diverse skills to this position. Our decision came down to continuity and history with the agency. Mr. Garrett, in his six years as Deputy Executive Director and Interim Executive Director, has displayed a steady hand and has made much progress during his stint as Interim Executive Director. The Board was able to observe him and the outstanding

progress he has made while working in the interim capacity. I want to thank this Board who continues to give of themselves, sacrifice their time and talent to move this agency forward especially in this process. I want to ensure the employees that they have the Board's full support in the task of supplying excellent service to the residents of the Housing Authority. Thank you for your commitment and service.

Rocky Peterson, Legal Counsel informed the Board that he will be sending a draft of the proposed contract for the new Executive Director for your review and you can get back to me with your comments.

There was some discussion as to meeting with regards to the contract and the fact that we are scheduled to meet at the Abbott Building for the September meeting.

At this time, a couple commissioners expressed an interest in making a statement, so I will start with Commissioner Fitzgerald and work my way around.

Commissioner Fitzgerald - this has been a very tumultuous time and I agree with Commissioner Weldon that it is time to mend bridges and be a more cohesive unit and work towards similar goals and I look forward, whole heartedly, to working with the Executive Director and his Administration. From this day forward, I pledge that I will be there for you.

Commissioner Gray – Congratulations!

Commissioner Gentry – Congratulations!

Commissioner Taylor – nothing

Commissioner Tossie – It has been a long journey and I am glad it is over. I think Mr. Garrett will make an excellent person and I feel that you did a great job. I look forward to working with Mr. Jelani and everybody knows me...I will be by his office. Congratulations!

Vice Chair Weldon-Gordon – Congratulations! I am looking forward to a new start.

Jelani Garrett – I would just like to say thank you, I won't let you down. I am hoping to be, like you said about mending bridges; a force for unity; that is how we like to approach things inside, we are going to do that amongst the Board, we want to do that in the City of Trenton. We are here to be a positive force and I appreciate the confidence you place in us and we are going to get it done.

Chairman Raines stated he would take a motion for adjournment. Vice-chair Weldon moved the motion, Commissioner Fitzgerald seconded and upon a voice vote the motion carries as follows:

	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAINS</u>
Com. William Fitzgerald	1		
Com. Shenette Gray	1		
Com. Gary Gentry	1		
Com. Kim Taylor	1		
Com. Darlene Weldon-Gordon	1		
Com. Jessie Tossie	1		
Com. John Raines	1		
Total	7	0	0

Jelani B. Garrett
Board of Commissioners
Housing Authority
of the
City of Trenton