



## Board of Commissioners

NRHA is headed by a board of seven commissioners, appointed by Norfolk City Council, who are responsible for determining policy and direction. NRHA Commissioners are residents of Norfolk and serve staggered four-year terms. The board elects a chairman and vice chairman, as well as selects an executive director who is responsible for NRHA's activities and operations. To contact a Commissioner, call 314-1679.

### Donald Musacchio

Chairman



Donald J. Musacchio retired from a notable federal career . Mr. Musacchio last served as the Assistant Deputy Administrator for Management of the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service. He was responsible for Agency-wide policy formulation and implementation in the areas of Labor and Employee Relations, Human Resources, Civil Rights, Emergency Planning, and Administrative Services. Post September 11, 2001, Don also had responsibilities in the programs of Continuity of Government (COG) and Continuity of Operations (COOP). Prior to entering the Senior Executive Service, Don was the Director of Labor and Employee Relations for FSIS.P. He has also served in various LR/ER and EEO counselor positions throughout the Department of the Navy. In those positions he provided labor and employee relations advice and representational services to naval activities throughout the Southeastern United States and the Caribbean. Don has successfully represented management before the FLRA, FSIP, MSPB, EEOC and arbitrators. He has been the chief negotiator on numerous labor agreements, dealing with employees both covered by and exempt from Title V. He is a trained and experienced mediator and facilitator with expertise in alternative dispute resolution (ADR) and interest based problem solving techniques. Don is a founding member and former Vice-Chair of the Interagency Labor Relations Forum. The ILRF is a group devoted to focusing on labor and employee relations advocacy and professional development from a management perspective. He is also on the Board of Directors of several organizations including, the Society of Federal Labor and Employee Relations Professionals, the Darden College of Education at Old Dominion University, and the City of Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority. He is also licensed by the International Rugby Board as an educator and evaluator of rugby referees. Since his retirement he has provided consultant services to several federal agencies including DoD, DHS, USDA, HHS, NIH and NOAA.

Mr. Musacchio received his B.S. and M.S. from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. He is the co-author of *The Federal Supervisor's Guide to Drug Testing*; *The Federal Employee's Guide to Drug Testing*; and *Managing Leave and Attendance Problems: A Guide for Federal Managers*. Don is an entertaining and sought after speaker and trainer. He



has conducted hundreds of labor and employee relations courses and trained thousands of federal managers. He often presents at major national conferences including FPPI's Annual Labor and Employee Relations Conference, OPM's SOELR Conference, Society of Federal Labor Relations Professionals and The Federal Dispute Resolution Annual Conferences as well as the DOD LR and ER Conference.

## **Alphonso Albert**

Vice Chairman



Albert attended Norfolk State University, St. Leo College and Norfolk Business College where he majored in Business Administration and Accounting. Currently, Albert serves as the Executive Director for Garden of Hope Community Development Corp, whose mission is to build healthy neighborhoods by providing services and programs to underserved individuals, families and communities throughout Hampton Roads.

"Alphonso is highly recognized region-wide for his integrity, strong leadership in reviving communities and ability to galvanize leaders to address vital issues. This expertise will bring great value to the board", said NRHA Chief Executive Officer Shurl Montgomery. Highlights of Albert's professional affiliations include LEAD Hampton Roads, Norfolk Chamber of Commerce, Hampton Roads 200+ Men, Tidewater Children's Foundation, Norfolk Drug Court Foundation and Park Place Property Owner's Association. He is a longtime resident of Norfolk and currently resides in the Broad Creek neighborhood with his wife Linda.

## **Rose Arrington**



Rose Arrington joined the NRHA Board in August of 2012. Ms. Arrington has been an advocate for improving her community for many years. This appointment provides her with another opportunity to fulfill her mission to champion economic self-sufficiency for socially and economically challenged families, particularly those in public housing. She has served on the Board of Directors of several non-profit agencies, whose missions benefitted economically and socially disadvantaged populations, including Community Housing Services, The Center for Community and Family Services, The He Ain't Heavy Foundation and Northwest Manors Affordable Housing Development Corporation. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Legal Aid Society of Eastern Virginia. She has managed polling venues and coordinated voter registration events.

Ms. Arrington has been a resident of Diggs Park since 2005, and currently serves as President of Diggs Town Tenant Management Corporation. Being a resident provides her with a keen perspective, and provides the NRHA Board with input from the community level in making its decisions. Because of her work and keen insight, Ms. Arrington has been asked to participate in an advisory capacity to quite a few Boards and Commissions.

Ms. Arrington is also an advocate for creating opportunities for grief counseling within the public housing community. She believes that grief counseling is a staple missing from these communities, particularly since these families experience tragedy, per capita, at a much higher rate than families in other communities. She knows first hand experiencing the tragic loss of both her teen-aged son, followed several years later by the tragic loss of her husband due to social and economic disadvantage. These tragedies have provided her with a passion and special insight that makes her a better champion for her cause. She is an advocate for Victims of Violent Crimes, Victims of Domestic Violence and Victims of Child Abuse.

Ms. Arrington is a member of the First Baptist Church of Lamberts Point in Norfolk, Virginia.

**KEN BENASSI**



Ken Benassi is Senior Vice President with CBRE Hampton Roads, a commercial real estate firm. He is a commercial broker focused on industrial real estate. Benassi graduated from University of Virginia with a degree in history and he added an MBA from Old Dominion University. Prior to his career in commercial real estate he was in sales and marketing management with National Welders Supply and Airgas.

Highlights of his professional career involve the disposition of the former Ford plant, the acquisition of the former Lillian Vernon property, the acquisition of the former Virginia Chemical/BASF plant and the assemblage of land for the Old Dominion Real Estate Foundation of what is now the Old Dominion University Village.

Benassi and his wife Tracey live in the East Beach neighborhood.

**JOE W. DILLARD, JR.**



Joe W. Dillard, Jr. is a millennial leader who strives to create positive change in the world with the purpose of leaving the world in a better place for future generations. He is currently the External & Governmental Affairs Liaison for Hampton Roads Transit and participates in policy advocacy at the local, state and federal level.

Mr. Dillard began his undergraduate studies at Virginia State University where he pursued a Bachelor of Arts in Business Management. After transferring to Norfolk State University (NSU), he completed his Bachelors of Arts Degree in Political Science in 2012.

In November of 2014, he was elected President of the Norfolk Branch NAACP, becoming the youngest branch president in the United States. The following year, he was elected to serve as the Vice President for the Virginia State Conference of the NAACP. Under this role, Mr. Dillard was the chair of the State Legislative Advocacy Committee. In 2016, he was elected to serve as the Vice-Chair of the Region 7 of the NAACP which consisted of Virginia, Washington DC and Maryland.

Mr. Dillard is the youngest Worshipful Master of his respective Prince Hall Masonic Lodge (Blooming Light Lodge No. 132). He also serves as the Worthy Grand Assistant Marshall for the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge. Mr. Dillard serves as Vice President of the Greater Hampton Roads Black Democrats and Outreach Chair of the Norfolk Democratic Executive Committee. He has served as an executive board member of the Hampton Roads Young Democrats and 2nd Vice President of the West Tidewater Young Democrats. Mr. Dillard also served as a Commissioner on Norfolk's Mayor Commission to Reduce Poverty.

Mr. Dillard was recognized as the Master Mason of the Year for the First Masonic District of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia in 2013. The following year, he was honored as a Hampton Roads Living Legend by the City of Norfolk for his impactful work in the community. Also in 2014, he was honored by Bank Street Memorial Baptist Church for his leadership across the City of Norfolk. Mr. Dillard was recognized as an "Agent of Change" on WVEC Channel 13 in 2016. Mr. Dillard was ranked number eight in the Historical Black College & Universities (HBCU) Top 30 under 30 in its 2016 rankings.

Mr. Dillard looks forward to continuing to work to improve the lives of those around him.

**RICHARD GRESHAM**



Gresham is Vice President of E.T. Gresham Company, a local family-owned construction firm in Norfolk. Gresham graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University with a degree in architecture and has over 43 years of experience in the industry, 30 years of which are with E. T Gresham. Highlights of his professional affiliations include Mayor's Downtown Norfolk Taskforce, General Douglas MacArthur Foundation, Norfolk Society for Cemetery Conservation and Ghent Business Association. Gresham is a Norfolk native and currently resides in the Belvedere neighborhood with his wife Jane.

**Suzanne Puryear**





The Norfolk City Council appointed Suzanne Puryear to the Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority (NRHA) Board of Commissioners last month. Puryear fills a vacancy left by the death of Robert Soble, whose term was set to expire April 14, 2016.

Puryear is President of The Planning Council, a regional nonprofit organization that plans, develops and manages human services programs. Prior to joining The Planning Council, Suzanne served as the Director of the Department of Human Services for the City of Norfolk, administered community-based programs for a private child-serving company, and provided consulting and facilitation services to local governments and nonprofit agencies to increase organizational capacity and effectiveness.

Puryear has an undergraduate degree in Political Science and Masters of Public Administration from Old Dominion University. She is an alumna of the Senior Executive Institute of the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, University of Virginia, and CIVIC Leadership Institute. She serves on various community boards, including Hampton Roads Center for Civic Engagement, Westminster-Canterbury on Chesapeake Bay, YMCA of South Hampton Roads, Tidewater Pastoral Counseling, as well as Together We Can Foundation and Hampton Roads Community Foundation. She is a past President of the Board of Trustees of St. Mary's Home for Disabled Children and the National Association of Planning Councils.

"We are pleased to have Suzanne join our Board of Commissioners," said John Kownack, Executive Director. "She brings a wealth of experience to our board and I know she will help us do great things."

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