

AGENDA  
NRHA Commissioners' Meeting  
June 8, 2011 – 8:00 a.m.  
201 Granby Street, 12<sup>th</sup> floor

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETINGS  
May 25, 2011 Board of Commissioners' Meeting

II. BUDGET APPROVAL FY2012

- 1) Resolution Adopting a Consolidated Annual Operating and Capital Budget for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2010 and Ending June 30, 2012  
Presented by Brenda Benn  
Budget and Compliance Director
- 2) Resolution Authorizing Cash Advances for Activities included in the Approved Fiscal Year Budget  
Presented by Brenda Benn  
Budget and Compliance Director

III. RECENT ARTICLES & CORRESPONDENCE/UPCOMING EVENTS

a. Public Hearing Summary of Proposed Budget 2012/Ruffner Middle School

b. Budget workshop will be available to any board member that would like to attend.

When: Monday, June 6

Where: 201 Granby, 12<sup>th</sup> floor, large conference room

Time: 10:00 a.m.

c. The next BOC meeting is Wednesday, July 13, 2011  
201 Granby Street  
12<sup>th</sup> floor at 8:00 a.m.

AGENDA  
NRHA Commissioners' Meeting  
June 8, 2011 – 8:00 a.m.  
201 Granby Street, 12<sup>th</sup> floor

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETINGS  
May 25, 2011 Board of Commissioners' Meeting

II. BUDGET APPROVAL FY2012

- 1) Resolution Adopting a Consolidated Annual Operating and Capital Budget for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2010 and Ending June 30, 2012  
Presented by Brenda Benn  
Budget and Compliance Director
- 2) Resolution Authorizing Cash Advances for Activities included in the Approved Fiscal Year Budget  
Presented by Brenda Benn  
Budget and Compliance Director

III. RECENT ARTICLES & CORRESPONDENCE/UPCOMING EVENTS

a. Public Hearing Summary of Proposed Budget 2012/Ruffner Middle School

b. Budget workshop will be available to any board member that would like to attend.

When: Monday, June 6

Where: 201 Granby, 12<sup>th</sup> floor, large conference room

Time: 10:00 a.m.

c. The next BOC meeting is Wednesday, July 13, 2011  
201 Granby Street  
12<sup>th</sup> floor at 8:00 a.m.



NRHA  
BOARD  
OF  
COMMISSIONER'S  
MEETING

**June 8, 2011  
8:00 a.m.**

**201 Granby Street  
12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Norfolk, VA**



2. Vice Chairman Layton and staff were thanked for attending the dedication of the recently constructed Habitat for Humanity house in the Willoughby section of the City.

3. Efforts are ongoing to obtain repayment from Empowerment 2010 of the \$244,800.00 owed to NRHA.

4. HUD will be making an announcement tomorrow of Capital Fund Education and Training Community Facilities (CFCF) grant awards and NRHA is hopeful that it will be one of the recipients.

5. Norfolk State University has been awarded an \$800,000.00 grant to work with women, including residents of our public housing communities.

**B. Chairman of the Board Comments**

1. A date has not yet been scheduled for the joint meeting with City Council.

2. All Commissioners are invited to attend the upcoming achievement banquet on June 3, 2011 and a new bowling event for the youth on June 4, 2011.

3. A copy of the new City Council Committee structure was distributed. NRHA's primary involvement will be with the Finance, Administration and Economic Development Committee.

4. The public hearing this evening on the proposed budget will commence at 6:30 p.m.

5. The next meeting of the Commissioners will be held on June 8, 2011 at 8:00 a.m.

6. There will be a work session on the budget for all interested Commissioners on June 6, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. until noon. Mr. Bilisoly, Mr. Soble and Mr. Layton indicated that they would likely attend.

**C. Commissioners' Comments**

Mr. Layton said he would like to start receiving again a written report from Mr. Montgomery each month concerning the status of Commissioners' requests.

. . .

The Chairman advanced the 2010 Community Resource Officers' Annual Report on the agenda.

**III. Housing Operations**

**A. 2010 Community Resource Officers' Annual Report**

Ms. Donnell Brown introduced Mr. J.R. Hammond who gave a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which has been filed with these minutes. Captain Driscoll of the first patrol division was in attendance along with Sergeant Dixon, supervisor of the Community Resource Officers. The Commissioners congratulated Mr. Hammond and the Police Officers for excellent work in making the public housing communities safer and Ms. Hamm Lee offered to assist in better communicating the fact that crime rates are not higher in public housing communities than in other neighborhoods of the City. Sergeant Dixon reported that he has seen decreases in criminal activity over the past 4-5 years. Captain Driscoll reported that he has worked in public housing communities since 1982 when they were some of the most dangerous neighborhoods in the City. He assisted in implementing the trespass policy with guidance from Judge Reid Spencer, a former Commissioner of NRHA. Captain Driscoll also initiated the Community Resource Officer Program in 1995. In response to a question from the Chairman, Sergeant Dixon stated that if resources were available the two most important focuses ought to be on providing more mentoring and more activities for the youth.

. . .

**IV. Development Operations**

**A. Ace Hardware Acquisition Proposal**

Mr. Jim Gehman gave a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which has been filed with these minutes. Several

Commissioners indicated general support for the proposed acquisition. The Chairman noted that the proposed acquisition parcel was a critical gateway to the neighborhood and that any development proposal needs to be carefully evaluated. The Chairman also wondered whether the interested developer was "uniquely situated" so as to avoid NRHA's standard Request for Proposals process. Mr. Gehman advised that no action by the Commissioners was necessary and that the briefing was for informational purposes only.

**V. Finance and Administrative Operation**

**A. Proposed Consolidated Annual Operating and Capital Budget FY2012.**

Ms. Brenda Benn gave a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which has been filed with these minutes. Staff was congratulated for putting together a balanced budget in very difficult economic times.

**B. Previous Month's Activities**

No Comment

**VI. New Business**

None

**VII. Committee Meeting Notes**

None

**VIII. Closed Meeting**

None

. . .

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman



## Resolution NRHA Board of Commissioners

**Subject:** Resolution Authorizing Cash Advances for Activities Included in the Approved FY2012 Budget

**Executive Contact:** Clara Graves

**Date:** June 8, 2011

### BACKGROUND

This resolution seeks the board's approval of the historical practice of providing cash advances to meet cash flow needs for activities that have been included in NRHA budgets.

Historically, in the event sufficient revenue sources are not realized at the time a budgeted expenditure need occurs, NRHA has advanced cash from accounts such as the Working Fund, the Development Operational Support Fund or from reserves available in properties such as Merrimack Landing to meet cash flow needs. At the completion of a budget year, most cash advances are recouped from the realization of the projected revenue. At times when the projected revenue source is not realized by the end of a budget year, staff expenses the activity against the actual funding source used and reports to the Board regarding write-offs that have occurred.

It is staff's recommendation that the described process receive more formal authorization from the Board, in the form of a not-to-exceed authorization of cash advances for budgeted activities. Based on an analysis of advances in previous years, it is recommended that a not-to-exceed authorization level of \$4 million be used. While the advances could come from multiple sources designated by the Chief Executive Officer, it is noted that the \$4 million level is commensurate with the current reserve level target for the Authority's Working Fund.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CASH ADVANCES FOR ACTIVITIES INCLUDED IN  
THE FY2012 APPROVED FISCAL YEAR BUDGET**

WHEREAS, in the normal course of business, the Authority advances funds to ensure the timely accomplishment of initiatives included in the approved fiscal budget, for which there will be a delayed receipt of related budgeted revenue; and

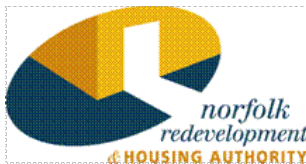
WHEREAS, a recent assessment of such advance balances and projected needs for advances confirmed a trend of a routine advance balance totaling up to \$4,000,000; and

WHEREAS, under the Authority's budget policy, expenditures not included in the Authority's approved budget should be submitted to the Commissioners for approval; and

WHEREAS, it is considered appropriate to have explicit approval of our advance practice to evidence compliance with our budget policy; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to temporarily finance such advances with de-federalized, unrestricted reserves (i.e. Local Development Fund, Working Fund, Merrimac Landing Reserves, Central Office Cost Center reserves) of the Authority, and such balances are available; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Director is authorized to advance unrestricted funds for activities included in the approved fiscal year budget up to \$4,000,000, when related budgeted receipts are expected, but delayed.



## Resolution NRHA Board of Commissioners

**Subject: Resolution Adopting A Consolidated Annual Operating And Capital Budget for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2011 and Ending June 30, 2012**

**Executive Contact: Clara Graves**

**Date: June 8, 2011**

### BACKGROUND

Attached for your consideration and approval is the resolution authorizing expenditures for the proposed budget of \$95.3 million for FY2012. The proposed budget was presented to the Board and a public hearing was held on May 25, 2011.

There were no significant comments during the public hearing that would cause changes in the proposed budget as presented.

The objectives of this budget are to preserve the current level of services while addressing the needs of the community and maintaining progress toward achieving sustainability through the CEO Special Initiatives project.

Listed below is a recap of Projected Revenue and Expenditure Budget Comparison for FY2012.

<b>NRHA FY 2012 vs. FY 2011 PROJECTED REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE BUDGET COMPARISON</b>				
<b>NRHA FY2012 vs. FY2011 Expenditures</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Housing</b>	<b>Development</b>	<b>Other</b>
<b>FY 2012 (\$)</b>	95,283,006	74,160,409	20,662,519	460,078
<b>FY 2011 (\$)</b>	103,518,593	80,609,066	22,272,804	636,723
\$ Change	(8,235,587)	(6,448,657)	(1,610,285)	(176,645)
% Change (FY11 to FY12)	(7.9%)	(8.0%)	(7.2%)	(27.7%)
% of FY2012 Budget	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>77.8%</b>	<b>21.7%</b>	<b>0.5%</b>

**Recommendation: Approve the Proposed FY2012 Budget**

RESOLUTION ADOPTING A CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL  
OPERATING AND CAPITAL  
BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING  
JULY 1, 2011 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2012

WHEREAS, the expected operating income and capital funding and related expenditures for the various projects and activities of this Authority for the period beginning July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012 have been carefully reviewed and compiled in a consolidated budget document (the "Consolidated Annual Operating and Capital Budget"), a copy of which has been presented to and considered by the Commissioners at the May 25, 2011 Commissioner's Meeting; and

WHEREAS, the *requested funding* in the amount of \$95,283,006 is adequate to cover the proposed necessary expenditures as set out in the budget document without use of funding in excess of that permitted as specified on the various budget schedules comprising the Consolidated Annual Operating and Capital Budget; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on May 25, 2011 in accordance with mandated state legislature; and

WHEREAS, the funding levels expressed thereby contain costs of certain central office cost centers which provide office facilities and program support; authorizations by the executive office to advance working capital, individual community project budgets at the asset management levels and other products and services necessary to the accomplishment of NRHA's objectives; and

WHEREAS, in order for this Authority to obtain required financial assistance from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Virginia Housing Development Authority, and the City of Norfolk, the Consolidated Annual Operating and Capital Budget must be submitted to the Commissioners of this Authority for approval;

WHEREAS, the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the City of Norfolk may subsequently approve modified amounts of financial assistance which will require a modification of the presented expenditure levels, revised budget submissions, and;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Consolidated Annual Operating and Capital Budget dated June 8, 2011, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012, is hereby determined to be an estimate of the operating income and capital funding to be received and expenditures to be incurred in the prudent operation of the administration and program activities and operation of the central offices of the Authority for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012 and the Consolidated Annual Operating and Capital Budget, as presented at this meeting, to include any modifications approved by the funding providers, is hereby approved;

RESOLUTION ADOPTING A CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL  
OPERATING AND CAPITAL  
BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING  
JULY 1, 2011 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2012

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Executive Director or his designee is hereby authorized, in his discretion, to expend during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012, from unobligated funds in previously approved Cumulative Budgets, as shown in the Consolidated Operating Budget, such amounts in excess of currently budgeted amounts as he may deem appropriate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Executive Director or his designee is authorized and directed to submit such Consolidated Operating Budget to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the City of Norfolk, and other federal, state and local agencies, as appropriate, for their respective consideration and such approvals as may be necessary.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

V I R G I N I A :

NORFOLK REDEVELOPMENT HOUSING AUTHORITY

P U B L I C H E A R I N G

SUMMARY OF DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN

**COPY**

Ruffner Middle School  
610 May Avenue  
Norfolk, Virginia

Wednesday, May 25, 2011

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

APPEARANCES:

BOARD:

W. SHEPPARD MILLER, III, CHAIRMAN

L. ROBERT LAYTON, VICE CHAIRMAN

ROBERT J. SOBLE, COMMISSIONER

HATTIE ANDERSON, COMMISSIONER

BARBARA HAMM-LEE, COMMISSIONER

TREVOR ROBINSON, COMMISSIONER

F. NASH BILISOLY, COMMISSIONER

PRESENTER: SHURL R. MONTGOMERY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

(Hearing came to order 6:40 p.m.)

MR. MILLER: Okay, folks, we're going to get started. I apologize for being a little bit late, but we had a busy agenda. We had a sandwich before we got in here and we ate it really fast, six minutes. I think it's the record.

Tonight, as you know, we're here to present to you-all our proposed budget for 2012. As most of you-all know, it takes us -- we start this process really going back to the beginning of the calendar year. Sometime in the December-January timeframe is when we start working on a budget that we will ultimately adopt for July 1, the year ended 2012, started July 1, 2011.

The whole budget looks like this. And that's available to you if you want it. We do boil it down to sort of a Reader's Digest version here, and that's been handed out here tonight. I believe the whole budget is on the website. We also try to distribute it out to the various names throughout our communities. So if you all have any difficulty getting ahold of this thing -- it changes, obviously, all the time, different iterations. But if you're having difficulty getting ahold of it, let us know, and we'll

1 make sure you get a copy of it. But it is on the  
2 website.

3 Mr. Montgomery, who is our CEO,  
4 long-time leader in the government of Norfolk, is going  
5 to make the presentation tonight. It will be a  
6 relatively brief presentation. After he's done we will  
7 take public comments. I'll open the public hearing and  
8 take public comments. We only have two people signed  
9 up so far. Mr. Gillette signed up, and Ms. Marroni  
10 signed up. If there's others that want to speak, I'd  
11 ask you to please sign up. There's forms in the back.

12 As I always do, if you get the  
13 compulsion just to speak and you haven't signed up,  
14 when we finish the last speaker, just raise your hand  
15 and I'll call for you. Generally we give you three  
16 minutes. There's not a lot of folks here tonight,  
17 unfortunately. That's good news and bad news. Maybe  
18 the good news is they're happy with the budget. Maybe  
19 the bad news is they're not as engaged as they ought to  
20 be.

21 So we appreciate you all who have come  
22 here tonight to talk to us. We do take this seriously.  
23 Our basic timeline -- we've been working on this for a  
24 number of months at the board level, but our timeline  
25 is after we hear from you-all, we'll go back and

1 reconsider anything we've heard tonight. And we will  
2 adopt the final budget next month. And that budget  
3 will go in force as of July 1 and run through June 30  
4 of 2012.

5 I should have told you -- my name is  
6 Shep Miller, and I'm the Chairman of the Board here. I  
7 am joined by all of our colleagues here tonight. I'm  
8 glad everybody could be here. I'll ask them to  
9 introduce themselves one by one. I'm a life-long  
10 native here in the City and been on the board, I guess,  
11 eight or nine years now.

12 MR. LAYTON: Bob Layton, I'm a  
13 resident of Willoughby, served on the NRHA board since  
14 1998. Prior to that time I had six years of service on  
15 the planning commission. I look forward to hearing  
16 from you.

17 MR. ROBINSON: Trevor Robinson, an  
18 attorney here in Norfolk, resident of Ingleside. I've  
19 lived there since 2003, but born and raised right here  
20 in Norfolk, educated in Virginia, glad to be back and  
21 glad to serve you.

22 MR. SOBLE: I'm Robert Soble, 55 years  
23 in Norfolk and attended Old Dominion, have a small  
24 business and look to serve and do whatever I can.

25 MS. HAMM-LEE: I'm Barbara Hamm-Lee.

1 I'm the executive producer and host of Another View,  
2 WHRO, a resident of Esterbrook, and I've lived in the  
3 Norfolk area for 15 years, originally from Baltimore,  
4 was appointed to the Commission in 2010.

5 MR. BILISOLY: I'm Nash Bilisoly. I'm  
6 a life-long resident of Norfolk as well, lived here all  
7 my life except for going to school, and I've been on  
8 the Board for three years.

9 MS. ANDERSON: My name is Hattie  
10 Anderson, and I originally came from Berkeley and moved  
11 into the Compostella area. And I was an active person  
12 in Berger [sic] as the older tenants, where we used to  
13 go feed the hungry and make sure they had decent and  
14 clean clothes on their bodies. And I'm still doing the  
15 same thing I did when I was in Berkeley. I'm doing  
16 more there than I did when I was in Berkeley.

17 MR. MILLER: Again, I want to thank my  
18 colleagues for being here tonight. We do take our jobs  
19 very seriously. We serve at the appointment of the  
20 City Council members. We serve without any sort of pay  
21 or expenses or anything. And we do so because we love  
22 the City like you do, and we try to do our best to make  
23 it as good as it can be. Thank you all for being here  
24 tonight.

25 I'll call Mr. Montgomery. I will tell

1 you when we start the public hearing process, I don't  
2 have a stopwatch, and I'm not going to watch the watch;  
3 but if you go on forever, I'm going to thank you very  
4 much. So please try to just be succinct with your  
5 comments and tell us what you're thinking.

6 It's not a question and answer session,  
7 but we will have staff here afterwards to interact with  
8 you, talk with you to answer your questions. The  
9 public hearing is more of tell us what you think or  
10 tell us what you're concerned about. Mr. Montgomery,  
11 our CEO, has been with the City 34 years; is that  
12 right?

13 MR. MONTGOMERY: Yes, sir.

14 MR. MILLER: He just says that. It's  
15 been a long time with the City. He's done about  
16 everything here including assistant city manager, and  
17 he's been our leader for a number of years, and we're  
18 very glad. He leads a very professional team who take  
19 their jobs very seriously.

20 Let me say one thing and we'll get on  
21 with this. In the meeting tonight and last month when  
22 we were looking at the budget, I think it's basically  
23 five years no raises -- five, none, zero. We had one  
24 year there was one little bonus that everybody got.  
25 And that's maybe over seven years, five or seven. It's

1 a long time that these folks have gone without raises.  
2 And they've gone without raises because they love what  
3 they do. They know how important it is to the City,  
4 and because we didn't have the money to give it to them  
5 and still do what we need to do. So the Board does  
6 this for the love as well. These people have to feed  
7 their families with their work here, and they have gone  
8 without raises for a very long time. So I hope the  
9 public appreciates that because we certainly do. Mr.  
10 Montgomery.

11 MR. MONTGOMERY: Thank you, Mr.  
12 Chairman, members of the Board, the public in  
13 attendance tonight. What I'd like to do is to review  
14 our proposed budget for this coming year. The budget  
15 itself is based on our mission to provide quality  
16 housing, and also its housing of choice in the City.

17 Based upon that, budget projections for  
18 this year -- we have had no merit increases for four  
19 years. There's been no cost of living adjustments.  
20 And for six years employees have shared the cost in our  
21 health insurance along with the payment made by the  
22 Authority for them. We've also eliminated a number of  
23 positions over the year, and the positions that we do  
24 get as new positions are typically fully funded by the  
25 Federal Government.

1                   For three consecutive years we have not  
2 purchased any new office furniture or equipment. We've  
3 reduced the amount of money we spend on outside  
4 resources and consultants. And also, we've analyzed  
5 all our spending to try to create more reductions,  
6 including the cost of utilities in our public housing.  
7 And we're also trying to work smarter with upgrading  
8 our computer services and our software.

9                   This year our proposed budget is just a  
10 little over 95 million. If you're familiar with our  
11 last year's budget, FY-11, it was approximately 103  
12 million. So we're providing the same services for  
13 \$8 million less, and we are continuing to look for  
14 outside funding and grants to continue our program  
15 services.

16                   One of the things that we like to show  
17 is that on the chart here today the red part of the pie  
18 chart is 67 percent of the money. These are Federal  
19 dollars that come from HUD, and there's a sprinkling of  
20 Federal money spread through this entire budget  
21 projection, but the majority of it comes from the  
22 Federal Government.

23                   As a part of our budget we have a  
24 number of expenses -- a lot of our programs, especially  
25 with public housing and the capital costs for that; and

1 of course, our employees are a large part of the  
2 budget. 22 percent of our budget is labor and fringes  
3 for them.

4 Our revenue sources, again, we take a  
5 look at the HUD grants. We do get some funding from  
6 the City, and we do have about 17 million in income,  
7 which 18 percent of our income comes from tenants in  
8 our housing. From a historical standpoint this chart  
9 spells out in a very distinct way our revenues that  
10 have been generated each year. And this chart  
11 indicates from '07 through FY-12, as you can see, our  
12 funds have reduced from FY-07 from 103 million to  
13 approximately 95 million for FY-12.

14 The funding from the Federal  
15 Government, again, which is the majority of our  
16 funding, you can see that those numbers have decreased  
17 down over the last three years to 59.5 percent of our  
18 budget. The other thing that I would point out is that  
19 the Housing Authority through its non-governmental  
20 funding sources has continued to go to our resources  
21 and reserves. And as you can see, for the last three  
22 years especially we've called for 2 or \$3 million out  
23 of our reserves, which are quickly getting depleted.

24 On our staffing -- the majority, of  
25 course, of our staffing is in public housing

1 communities of about seven percent. Historical trends,  
2 our employment -- the one area that we have had a  
3 decrease in over the years that's shown here is the  
4 development staff has decreased from 59 people to 40.  
5 We've been able to maintain the employment levels with  
6 our public housing due to the Federal support. Our  
7 administrative staff has remained fairly constant.

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Can I stop you now?  
9 I want to say something.

10 MR. MONTGOMERY: No, sir. I think  
11 we'll take questions at the end here.

12 Budget amendments -- we have continued  
13 to do budget amendments. We are presently working to  
14 try to bring forth as many Federal dollars to support  
15 our public housing communities and assisted housing  
16 communities as possible. We will also talk a little  
17 bit later on and between now and the approval of the  
18 budget about things that we might do to continue to  
19 improve the budget into the future.

20 Mr. Chairman, members of the Board,  
21 that concludes the presentation. And Mr. Chairman, if  
22 you would like to open the public meeting and take  
23 comments from the public, we'll be glad to have the  
24 staff assist in anything following the public hearing.

25 MR. MILLER: Thank you, Mr.

1 Montgomery. Let me remind you all -- I know there are  
2 some folks that just got here -- this is a presentation  
3 and a public hearing. If you want to make comments, we  
4 ask you to sign up. If you didn't sign up when you  
5 came in, I'll call on you if you raise your hand.

6 When you come up to speak, please give  
7 your name and full address for the record so we can get  
8 that into the record. We generally try to ask you to  
9 limit your comments to two minutes. It's not a  
10 question and answer period, but we do have staff here  
11 after the public comment session is over who can answer  
12 questions, who are available to follow up on things.  
13 So that's one of the reasons they're here.

14 Now I will convene and open the public  
15 hearing. The first person I have on my list to speak  
16 is Maureen Marroni, if she'll come up, please. If you  
17 could tell us your full name again and address --

18 MS. MARRONI: My name is Maureen  
19 Marroni. I live at 2205 Corbett, C-O-R-B-E-T-T,  
20 Avenue, Norfolk, 23518.

21 I have written out what I wanted to say  
22 so I'd be short and sweet. It's a response to the  
23 newspaper this morning. I am a retired school  
24 counselor after 20 years at Jacox Elementary School,  
25 which is two blocks down from Booker T. Washington High

1 School. I grew up in Norfolk and attended St. Mary's  
2 Academy in the '50s when the City was driving pilings  
3 into the ground in order to build Tidewater Park. I  
4 was in the second grade at that time. I counted from  
5 the paper this morning -- they said that the  
6 infrastructure is 67 years old. Well -- is 60 years.  
7 I am 67. I was 7 years old in the second grade when  
8 this infrastructure was put in.

9 At that time segregated Norfolk was  
10 proud of its national achievement of having built new  
11 projects to house the large African-American population  
12 that was living in the City's dilapidated old  
13 neighborhoods. My question to you this evening is, Why  
14 was there no mention of Tidewater Park and its school  
15 in this morning's paper which read --

16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Why is there all  
17 these condos going on?

18 MR. MILLER: Sir, can you please be  
19 quiet.

20 MS. MARRONI: Public works director,  
21 John Keefer, said, "Rainfall is the biggest danger to  
22 Spartan Village, while Pretty Lake, where I live, and  
23 the Hague currently have no protection from tidal  
24 surges. The fixes for Pretty Lake, Mason Creek, the  
25 Hague and Ohio Creek area around Norfolk State

1 University would compel the City to seek funding from  
2 the Federal and State governments and other sources,  
3 the Mayor said."

4 I just want to know why not Tidewater  
5 Park? My concern is my friends at Tidewater Park have  
6 been forgotten. I see you as their advocates to the  
7 City, the State and the Federal Government. You know  
8 better than I do how they struggle with the water every  
9 time it rains. The post office was built on a hill so  
10 that they didn't have to deal with the water. I just  
11 passed it coming here from Brambleton. And you pass  
12 Tidewater Park, go downhill from the street where they  
13 are flooded constantly. Children and parents wade, if  
14 possible, through the deep water to get to school.

15 Why -- and I presented this to the  
16 principal this morning so that she would know I was  
17 talking about her, Dr. Lawrence. And she said, "Go for  
18 it." Why have they been forgotten, and what are you  
19 going to do about them? I need your advocacy.

20 MR. MILLER: Thank you, Ms. Marroni,  
21 very much.

22 MS. COOKE: She asked me to stand with  
23 her. My name is Michele Cooke. My address is 589  
24 Ruffner, R-U-F-F-N-E-R, Street, Norfolk, Virginia  
25 23504. I'm a resident of Tidewater Gardens. And when

1 it rains and rains constantly, it is a river. Nobody  
2 can go through that area where they have designed for  
3 the children to attend the schools. There is no way  
4 with that water there for them to even get to school.  
5 And my main thing is don't forget about replacing that  
6 school. Thank you.

7 MR. MILLER: Thank you, ladies. The  
8 next speaker signed up to speak is Mr. Philip Gillette.

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Can I speak?

10 MR. MILLER: After he's done you may.  
11 Mr. Gillette, remember to give us your name and  
12 address.

13 MR. GILLETTE: Good evening, Chairman  
14 Miller and Commissioners. My name is Philip Gillette.  
15 I reside in Norfolk at 1205 West Silver Avenue,  
16 Apartment A-5, Norfolk, 23507. I also serve as chair  
17 of the Norfolk Housing Task Force and Hampton Roads.  
18 And I've been making it my policy to attend as many of  
19 the meetings of the Board of Commissioners of the NRHA  
20 public meetings as possible so I could learn more about  
21 public housing in Norfolk and what is going on.

22 Now, tonight as we consider the budget,  
23 I remember that the Board of Commissioners' meeting  
24 preceding this meeting/hearing was then saying that one  
25 of the missions of the NRHA is to serve the long-term

1 needs of the families we serve. And I applaud this  
2 goal, and I certainly agree that's a very good thing to  
3 be doing. But I question -- and today I want to make  
4 really only one point -- simply, I'm not a good person  
5 with numbers, but I do think this is relevant to the  
6 budget in some sense to serve as a goal.

7 Now, the point I'd like to make is that  
8 there is a process for the -- in the public housing  
9 communities of Norfolk for electing the representatives  
10 of the residents who serve on the tenant/resident  
11 councils. And at this time there are preparations  
12 being made for new elections, and letters have gone out  
13 to all the residents of public housing about the  
14 procedures and what to expect, nominations and a number  
15 of things.

16 And I happened to become aware of this  
17 and was told that in one of these letters the statement  
18 was made that the voting, the actual counting of the  
19 ballots and the voting and all that, will take place on  
20 June 15th. Now, not knowing much about it, that was  
21 fine. I did have some conversations by telephone with  
22 a woman in the central NRHA administration who is  
23 overseeing the election process, Ms. Betty Temple. And  
24 on two occasions after my questions she told me that  
25 the elections will take place not on June 15th, but on

1 June 22nd. They will be voting in the YMCA and so on.  
2 And I confirmed that with her, actually.

3 And I called back today in the middle  
4 of the day to ask her to clarify why were there two  
5 statements, and to ask if that was causing possibly a  
6 confusion in this very important process whereby the  
7 residents freely choose somebody to represent their own  
8 concerns directly, and would there be any perhaps  
9 followup clarification. I didn't know. Was that a  
10 typo, a mistake, or was there a change; and if so,  
11 would there be followup?

12 And I did not -- I understand this is a  
13 sudden request on my part today; but you know, time is  
14 running out. We're talking about one month from now,  
15 and I don't know a lot about this situation. But it's  
16 a point that might really cause a great deal of  
17 questioning and some doubt about the legitimacy of the  
18 process if it isn't clarified.

19 So I respectfully request that this be  
20 looked into and clarified. And if I'm mistaken, I'm  
21 glad it will get this out and I'll be told that no, no  
22 mistakes have been made, and I got all the wrong  
23 information. But I do urge you since it's important to  
24 look into this matter. Thank you.

25 MR. MILLER: Thank you, Mr. Gillette.

1 The staff will follow up with you after the meeting, if  
2 you like.

3 Sir, I think you wanted to speak. If  
4 you'll come up and give us your full name and  
5 address --

6 MR. CORSEY: I want to know why --

7 MR. MILLER: Can you give us your full  
8 name and address? We need it for the record. Please  
9 pick up the mic.

10 MR. CORSEY: No, you can all hear me.

11 MR. MILLER: No, we can't hear you.

12 MR. CORSEY: Richard Corsey.

13 MR. MILLER: What's your address, sir?

14 MR. CORSEY: 3321 --

15 MR. ROBINSON: Just hold the mic up.  
16 We can't hear you, and we want to hear you.

17 MR. MILLER: If you hold the mic up  
18 towards your mouth -- we want to be able to hear your  
19 comments.

20 MR. CORSEY: Richard Corsey.

21 MR. MILLER: Give us your address again  
22 because the reporter could not get your address.

23 MR. CORSEY: My address is 3321 Lance  
24 Avenue, Apartment B, Norfolk, Virginia 23519.

25 MR. MILLER: Thank you.

1 MR. CORSEY: I have a whole lot to say.  
2 How long you want to stay here?

3 MR. MILLER: As I explained before,  
4 you're generally limited to three minutes. If you go  
5 over four, I won't stop you. But if you go to six,  
6 I'll stop you.

7 MR. CORSEY: I want to know why we got  
8 all the houses around here that's vacant, and you're  
9 talking about they're supposed to be started for --  
10 what do you call it -- for foreclosure and stuff like  
11 that, and the City won't take it over. They've got all  
12 these houses going into foreclosure, and why they  
13 aren't giving them up to people for low income houses?

14 I want to know why you're building  
15 these houses -- when a hurricane comes through here,  
16 where we going to go? The plastic houses that are  
17 still being built, they're just going to blow down and  
18 everybody is going to die. You got them brick houses  
19 and taking them down, but you're going to build some  
20 old toothpick houses. Do you really want me to talk?  
21 Can I really talk to you-all people?

22 MR. MILLER: Two minutes. It's your  
23 floor, sir.

24 MR. CORSEY: If a hurricane come  
25 through, what are the people going to do then? Can I

1 get you-all to answer me a question? I don't want you  
2 to answer when we're all finished talking. I want  
3 you-all to answer me now.

4 MR. MILLER: This is not a question and  
5 answer period, sir. It's a public comment period. You  
6 can give your comments, and the staff will follow up.

7 MR. CORSEY: Like I said before, taking  
8 the houses that are being foreclosed on and renting out  
9 to low income or do something with them. You're going  
10 to do the projects and everything that's even weaker  
11 than what was built there before. You know what I  
12 mean? You've got homeless people out here that want to  
13 do something, but Norfolk people are stopping people  
14 from doing anything. I don't know if I want to stop  
15 talking because I can talk all day long. I'm going to  
16 leave it there. All right.

17 MR. MILLER: Thank you, sir, appreciate  
18 it. Yes, sir.

19 MR. CORSEY: I got too much to say to  
20 you-all.

21 MR. MILLER: Your name and address, sir.

22 MR. MACK: My name is Melvin Mack. I  
23 stay at 3121 Lion [sic] Avenue.

24 MR. CORSEY: I got a lot to talk to --

25 MR. MILLER: Sir, please be quiet so we

1 can hear Mr. Mack.

2 MR. MACK: The reason I'm here is  
3 Section VIII. I've been applying for it since 40, and  
4 I'm 57 now. But they don't seem to respond to me.  
5 Now, I was on Disability, and then they come around  
6 here and building streets and putting new pipes in.  
7 But I feel like the City should do something, rent  
8 something. I haven't been able to send my grandkids or  
9 take them nowhere. I've got to just pay to be living  
10 just enough for the City, but I ain't living even half  
11 of me. That's all I want, to get on the paper to get  
12 on Section VIII. That's all I'm saying. Thank you.

13 MR. MILLER: Thank you, sir. Anybody  
14 else in the public that would like to make any  
15 comments? Before I close the public hearing let me say  
16 we do appreciate you-all coming out and talking to us.  
17 We wish more people would come, seriously. It helps us  
18 do our jobs better to bring things to our attention.

19 As I indicated before, the staff will  
20 be here after this public comment section is over, and  
21 they're here to take questions and follow up with you  
22 as appropriate and as needed. So I want to wish  
23 you-all a great night, safe travels on your way home.  
24 And I'll close this public hearing now.

25 MR. CORSEY: No. I want to say --

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

MR. MILLER: This meeting is adjourned.  
(Whereupon, the hearing was  
adjourned at 7:15 p.m.)


1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER

I, Katherine Henry-Sexton, RPR, do hereby certify that I reported verbatim the proceedings in the public hearing for the Norfolk Redevelopment Housing Authority, on Wednesday, May 25, 2011, at the Ruffner Middle School, Norfolk, Virginia.

I further certify that the foregoing is a true, accurate and complete transcript of said proceedings.

Given under my hand this 29th day of May, 2011, at Norfolk, Virginia.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Katherine Henry-Sexton, RPR  
Notary Registration No. 7290049

My Commission expires:  
May 31, 2013