



**HOUSTON**  
HOUSING AUTHORITY

Transforming Lives & Communities

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **RESPONSE TO AUGUST 1 MEDIA RELEASE FROM THE CITY OF HOUSTON MAYOR'S OFFICE**

**HOUSTON** – On August 1, the City of Houston Mayor's Office [issued a media release](#) in regards to the proposed development of a new four-story apartment community to be located at 2640 Fountain View Road, Houston TX 77056.

The following response to the aforementioned media release includes statements from leadership of the Houston Housing Authority's Board of Commissioners:

**Our Authority deeply values its relationship with the City of Houston and its leadership including Mayor Turner. Although we continue to believe the current location of our Authority's headquarters is an excellent site for the development of a mixed-income affordable housing community, we will respect the Mayor's request by issuing a Request for Proposal asking developers, property owners and real estate brokers to submit to us sites in City Council District G that may be suitable for the development of affordable housing. That Request for Proposal will be issued by our authority on or before Monday, August 8, 2016.**

**The concern most often raised and also referenced by the Mayor is the development's estimated cost per unit. One of our Authority's core values is to be a good steward of funds we receive from investors and especially taxpayers. Perversely, the single greatest impact on this development's budget is the land cost. Like the residents in nearby homes, owners of sites available for development in District G assign a great value to their properties. The cost of land in District G is five to ten times or more higher than in many other council districts. Combined with our Authority's decision to limit the density of this development, the impact of high land prices has increased the project's estimated cost by approximately \$35,000 per unit above similar new apartment communities located elsewhere in the our city.**

*~ Houston Housing Authority Board Chairman Lance Gilliam*

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Mayor Turner also encouraged the Authority to engage with private owners to increase access to homes in so-called High Opportunity Neighborhoods.

**We are excited about the Mayor's encouragement in regard to our Authority's housing choice voucher program. Our Authority's Section 8 program has been consistently confirmed as a High Performer by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). With the support of HUD, our Authority has recently fought for and received permission to innovate by increasing the value of vouchers for residents desiring to live in Houston's High Opportunity Neighborhoods. Notwithstanding impediments oftentimes created by landlords' discrimination against residents using housing vouchers, this program has already increased the number of the Authority's families living in communities served by high performing schools, vibrant grocery stores, and activated green spaces.**

*~ Houston Housing Authority Board Vice Chairman LaRence Snowden*

Above all, the Houston Housing Authority remains committed to providing affordable housing choices throughout the entire City of Houston. In addition to the Fountain View site, the Authority has acquired sites for future development in important communities such as Acres Homes, the Fifth Ward and the historic Independence Heights. The Authority is also committed to identifying additional sites for development in other High Opportunity Neighborhoods in the City of Houston.

**ABOUT THE HHA:**

The Houston Housing Authority provides affordable homes and services to more than 58,000 low-income Houstonians, including over 17,000 families housed through the Housing Choice Voucher Program and another 5,700 living in 25 public housing and tax credit developments around the city. HHA also administers one of the nation's largest voucher program exclusively serving homeless veterans. More information about the Houston Housing Authority can be found at [www.housingforhouston.com](http://www.housingforhouston.com).

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