



# HOUSTON HOUSING AUTHORITY

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## MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON HOUSING AUTHORITY SPECIAL BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2024

### I. CALL TO ORDER

A Meeting of the Board of Commissioners (“Board”) of the Houston Housing Authority (“HHA”) was held on Wednesday, October 9, 2024, at the Houston Housing Authority Central Office, 2640 Fountain View Drive, Houston, Texas 77057. Called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

### II. ROLL CALL

#### Present:

- Joseph “Jody” Proler, Chairman
- Alton Smith, Vice Chairman
- Cynthia Aceves-Lewis, Commissioner
- Stephanie A.G. Ballard, Commissioner
- Eric G. Carter, Commissioner
- Kristy Kirkendoll
- Kenneth C. Li, Commissioner
- David A. Northern, Sr., Secretary

**ABSENCES:** None

### III. INTRODUCTION OF THE INTERPRETERS

Chairman Proler offered to provide interpreters to Spanish, Mandarin and Vietnamese speakers who may need assistance for public comments only.

### IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

LeMontre Wood: I want to thank you guys for giving me the time to speak today. My name is LeMontre Wood, I'm the owner of Elite Project Managers. I currently have project with HHA and I was in charge of Columbia Tap Trail. Today I want to want to set the record straight. First thing last night on Channel 2, there was a news reported about myself and Mr. Northern. The report stated that we had a prior relationship. I can say from my mouth that I want to clear it up. The first time I've met Mr. Northern was at the actual reveal of the Columbia Tap Trail. He had no say in me getting the project. I actually didn't even know what he looked like prior to the day of the event. The news also reported some things that are not necessarily true. For me as a project manager, I was never actually hired to do any physical work. My job was to oversee the project that was well past it's time and getting really close to its due date. I met Sasha Marshall Smith, a representative of HHA and she made it very clear that by any means of the project needs to be completed. And from there, the only conversation I've ever had with her was to get that job done. The contractors that were assigned to get the job done were SNR, Coastline, A Alexander, and I think there was one other contractor. But towards the end, we got to about 90% mark and time to put the finishing touches on those things, we realized that there were some things that needed to be done that will push us past the day. That's when we had to make some decisions to get some temporary things in place for the sake of getting the project done. Unfortunately, one of the. Contractors, A Alexander, left with the project funds and instead of paying for the actual materials.

The Channel 2 reporter quoted that it was me, but my contract was never slated to do any of those things. So, I just wanted to clear this up because I'm a young entrepreneur and I have a very special relationship with HHA and with other contractors. And I want to make sure that they understand that I'm not a guy that you're going to pay, that is not going to get the job done. And I feel like that was very unfortunate that they were running story saying that. Of course, it was even more unfortunate to say that he had anything to do with that because once again, I had never met him. I also wanted to clear up that they said that the project wasn't done because we didn't get it complete. That's also not true. Once again, let's make it very clear that there was a contractor A. Alexander, that he has cashed the check from the Houston Housing Authority and he did not pay for the materials that was supposed to be done.

Sasha Marshall Smith is the only other person that I know that had close contact with him and it was her goal that she went around me, I have actual emails showing that she thought that I was supposed to be put off the the project when actually I wasn't. I was actually supposed to do it from start to finish, but she was trying to go around me. She tagged me in a couple emails that was brought to the attention of some of the HHA management, and from there it's just been how to figure out how we can move forward. My goal just as it was in the beginning, was just to see this project from start to finish and that's still my goal. But, I wanted to clear it up that, I have not, nor would I ever, take funds from any of my clients and not get the job done. Everything I was paid for was for my time, my resources and my employees. I have never taken any money and not get things done.

Commissioner Aceves-Lewis: May ask a question?

Chairman Proler: You're not allowed to ask questions during public session.

Jonathan Brush. No, you can only respond with a specific recitation of factual information and we can't clarify questions publicly.

No other public comments.

## **V. PUBLIC SESSION**

## **VI. CONVENE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

We will now convene to Executive Session to deliberate:

- Personnel matters and accordance with Section 551.074 of the Texas Government Code, including the performance of the President and CEO of the Houston Housing Authority. In consultation with our board's attorney. I have 1:37 pm.

Visitor asked if he could make a public comment. He had sent a letter and thought it would be read.

Chairman Proler. Well, I'm sorry. We raised our hands to ask if there were any other people who had comments. We have already adjourned for executive session.

## **VII. RECONVENE PUBLIC SESSION TO TAKE ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION AGENDA ITEMS:**

Consideration and/or take any appropriate employment action concerning the President and CEO of the Houston Housing Authority.

Chairman Proler reconvened the Public Session at 3:50 p.m.

Chairman Proler asked if there were any motions to be made by the commissioners as a result of our closed session that we have just completed.

Having none, the Chairman asked for a motion to adjourn.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

On motion by Commissioner Carter and seconded by Commissioner Kenneth C. Li.

Chairman Proler declared the meeting adjourned at 3:51 p.m.