

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF THE
HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK**

Thursday, August 3, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

Housing Authority of the Borough of Red Bank, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey held a Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners on Thursday, August 3, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. via “Zoom” in accordance with the revised meeting requirements issued by the State of New Jersey due to COVID 19. The meeting was held via “Zoom” and the public could participate via “Zoom.” All meeting access information, agenda and related documents were posted, at least forty-eight (48) hours, prior to the meeting, on the Housing Authority’s website at: RedBankHousing.org. Public comments may be made via email. All comments must be received at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting.

OPENING OF MEETING:

Chairperson Memone Crystian called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. and asked for the reading of the roll.

Present:

Chairperson Memone Crystian
Vice Chairperson Alpha Reynolds-Lewis
Commissioner J.P. Nicolaides
Commissioner Marlene Nelson
Commissioner Sola Adenekan

Absent:

Commissioner Diem Jones
Commissioner Alecia Wilkerson

Also present: Lisa Hendricks Richardson, Terrence J. Corrison, Esq., Councilman David Cassidy (Borough Liaison)

The following meeting notice was read:

“Adequate notice of this meeting as required by the Open Public Meetings Act has been provided by the filing of an Annual Meeting Notice with the Municipal Clerk, posting of same to the RBHA official bulletin board and website, and delivery of the notice to the Asbury Park Press on December 24th, 2022. All meeting access information, agenda and related documents were posted, at least forty-eight (48) hours, prior to the meeting, on the Housing Authority’s website at: www.RedBankHousing.org. Public comments may be made via email. All comments must be received at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting. This body wishes to advise you, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 26:3D, smoking is prohibited while this body is in open or closed session.” The flag salute followed the opening statement.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussed and prepared official response to the shooting incident that occurred at Montgomery Terrace on July 25, 2023. Discussion led by Chairperson Crystian and included:

Brief information of the incident and that RBPD and Monmouth County Prosecutor investigators came to office to view and capture footage of the incident from CCTV located at Montgomery Terrace
The Chairperson and ED met with RBPD Chief McConnell and Captain Frazee on 8/2/23 to discuss any available updates on the investigation.

Immediately after the incident the RBHA did not receive any communications from residents and was concerned as to what is going on: (1) apathy; (2) complacency; (3) fear – neither of which is acceptable.

RBHA is the authority to get things done in its community. Children should not be traumatized, and mothers should not have to worry about their children. RBHA does not support this activity and the apparent status quo.

Proposed responses include a Town Hall Meeting tentatively scheduled for August 15, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at Evergreen Terrace Community Room; and a Community Engagement event to be held at Montgomery Terrace and tentatively scheduled for a Saturday in September. The event planning will include community resources and opportunities such as counseling, recreation, employment, health professionals, food, and entertainment.

RBHA will send a written communication to Montgomery Terrace residents about the incident and invite them to the scheduled Town Hall Meeting.

There is a need for more interaction with RBPD, as well as petitioning and going before the Borough Council and Business Administrator to get Montgomery Terrace Community Center open again for self-sufficiency programs for the Westside Community.

RBHA is reviewing its policies (i.e., One-Strike) and lease provisions for enforcement, including lease terminations and evictions, against households whose members are “causing havoc and don’t need to be here.” RBHA will be enforcing its lease which addresses activities which are undesirable and affects the residents’ quality of life, including lease violations involving the residents’ guests.

RBHA will also implement in cooperation with RBPD a ban list/no trespass list for non-resident individuals who have engaged in criminal and/or undesirable activity on RBHA property, and if such individuals have affiliations with RBHA residents, the RBHA household will be advised of the ban, so as not to permit the individual to visit the household.

RBHA seeks to uphold the quality of living for low-income housing and ensure that residents have the quality of life they deserve.

RBHA is small enough to make a change and will explore resident services grants.

RBHA’s pending new website will have community resources information.

Councilman Cassidy advised that he is accessible, and as a 15-year resident and volunteer firefighter he can obtain a firetruck and fire station participation at the planned Community Engagement event; and could assist with getting the basketball court reconstructed and bring back recreation to the space utilizing funds from businesses. He also advised of the volunteer fighters new recruiting campaign.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no other business or reports, Commissioner ___ moved that the meeting be adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m., Commissioner ___ seconded.

Ayes: Five Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Hendricks Richardson
Secretary