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Commissioner Deverra Beverly, Founding Chair appointed to the CHA Board of Commissioners



Chicago, IL August 2009 - Mayor Richard M. Daley appointed the Museum's "Founding Chair", Deverra Beverly to the CHA Board of Commissioners.

A public servant in the City of Chicago's Department of Human Services for over 30 years, Commissioner Beverly stresses that great accomplishments require teamwork, relationship building and open communication.

Since retiring from Chicago Department of Human Services in 1997, Ms. Beverly has held numerous resident leadership positions, including president of ABLA Homes' Local Advisory Council for over 26 years, vice-chair of the Central Advisory Council from 2002 to 2008, interim CAC chair from 2008 to 2009 and CAC treasurer in 2009.

"We congratulate Commissioner Beverly for having been appointed to the CHA Board of Commissioners," said Fred L. Bonner, President of the Board of Directors. "She has an indelible commitment to public housing and strives to leave a legacy that will continue to improve the quality of life for residents."

Commissioner Beverly, a lifelong resident of ABLA Homes, has researched public housing infrastructure and private management across state lines and worked with the mayor and CHA leadership to implement programs for residents.

Over the years, Ms. Beverly, a widowed mother of six children, has received countless awards in recognition of her efforts to improve the quality of life in public housing. A museum to focus on the history of public housing has long been her dream.

"It is an honor for our founding chair, Commissioner Beverly, to have this new position as she continues to see our living institution fully open in 2012," said Keith L. Magee, founding executive director.

The National Public Housing Museum is a 501(c)(3) organization that operates and sustains itself as a new cultural institution. It is much more than a traditional “museum;” it will be a place to understand policy from the perspective of families affected by those issues – poverty, race, housing, and civil liberties. The Museum will be located in the last remaining building of the Jane Addams Homes, a 1938 WPA building that was home to thousands of public housing families until 2002.

The Museum, which will also house the International Center for the Study of Housing and Society, will be both forward looking and reflective. Its public programs, workshops, symposia and public forums, some of which have already taken place, will continue to discuss the many lessons of public housing and related issues such as housing, poverty, race and immigration, which continue to form the urban experience and affect the communities in which we live. A phased opening of the Museum is slated to commence in 2012.

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