

**CITY OF BUFFALO URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**209 CITY HALL**

**MEETING DATE:** June 27, 2019

**MEMBERS AND OFFICERS PRESENT:** Mayor Byron Brown, Chairman  
Council President Darius Pridgen  
Brendan R. Mehaffy, Executive Director of Office of Strategic Planning  
Timothy Ball, Corporation Counsel  
Commissioner Donna Estrich  
Council Member Joseph Golombek  
Council Member Christopher Scanlon

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mr. Domenic Bonifacio

**SECRETARY:** Scott C. Billman

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Yvonne McCray, BURA Director of Housing, Tracy Cooley BURA  
Deputy Director of FCA, Brenda Durfee, Maria Scinta, Theresa Farrell,  
BURA, Pam Jarmon-Walker, Leslie Vishwanath, Joanne Kearns, Eliza  
Frank (BURA), Rashika Hall (COB-OSP), Eric Lander and Lilian Quiros  
(Heart of The City), Anthony Williams (Flare, Inc.), Alissa Schmidle  
(Old 1<sup>st</sup> Ward), Jerome Nagy (West Side NHS), Terry Gayles (UDCDA  
Org)

**1.0** Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 9:35 am.

**2.0** Mr. Ball made the motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the May 30, 2019 meeting, seconded by Mr. Mehaffy and carried unanimously.

**3.0** **CDBG**

**Agenda Item 3a - Budget Modification & Time Extension (2017-2019) Community Partnerships Initiative ("CPI") Contract**

Agency members approved a request to enter into a CPI time extension and budget modification contracts with the Community Based Organizations (CBO) selected to administer the Community Partnerships Initiative contract. The six groups are: Fillmore Leroy Area Residents, Heart of City Neighborhoods, Lt. Col. Matt Urban Center, Old First Ward Community Association, University District CDA and West Side NHS. The contract dates of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2019 have been revised to include a six month contract extension. The revised contract dates are July 1, 2017 through December 31, 2019. The revised CBO contract budgets were determined by reviewing current program activities and existing contract balances. The funding amount, previously set at \$767,300, will be amended to \$937,400 with the increase of funds in the amount of \$170,100.

**Mr. Mehaffy made the motion to approve Item 3a, seconded by Commissioner Estrich and carried unanimously.**

**4.0** **REAL PROPERTY DISPOSITIONS**

**Agenda Item 4a - Approval of Negative Declaration and Authorization to Transfer Twenty Four (24) Properties to the City of Buffalo**

Agency members approved a SEQR Negative Declaration and then the request to transfer twenty four (24) BURA owned residential and commercial properties to the City of Buffalo.

The City of Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency ("BURA") retains ownership to twenty-four (24) residential and commercial properties, known as 18, 22, 24, 26 Arsenal, 166-186 Church Street, 628 Jefferson, 3 LaSalle, 20, 30, 36, 40, 46 Matthews, 34, 40, 42, 48, 50 Nash, 320 Seventh, 397, 435, 836 Sycamore, 41 Sydni and 182 Wilson (hereinafter Real Property), that are neither immediately designated for development, anticipated to be sold to

third parties in the near future, nor income producing. The transfer of the Real Property to the City of Buffalo will consolidate control of this Real Property with the City for reuse, redevelopment and planning purposes.

If any of the Real Property was acquired or improved with Community Development Block Grant Funds (CDBG), the City will be required to comply with all CDBG regulatory requirements, including but not limited to restrictions on use of sales proceeds generated by dispositions of the Real Property. These properties have been identified and the Department of Administration, Finance, and Urban Affairs is prepared to handle expenses and revenues associated with the Real Property accordingly. The transfer of the Real Property from BURA to the City of Buffalo is authorized by the Laws of New York pursuant to General Municipal Law Article 15-A Section 556(4). To facilitate the transfer of the Real Property, approval was also requested to expend an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00 to contribute, if necessary, to closing costs. The transfer is also subject to any necessary approvals as determined by the City of Buffalo for the City to accept conveyance of the Real Property.

Pursuant to Section 617.4(b)(4) of New York State's Environmental Quality Review Act, the transfer of title is an "unlisted action" for which BURA has completed an environmental assessment. In accordance with Section 617.7 of the regulations, the impacts resulting from the proposed action will not have significant adverse impacts on the environment. The environmental review also encompasses the 24 properties owned by BURA, 101 properties owned by the Buffalo Neighborhood Revitalization Corporation and 51 properties owned by the Buffalo Economic Renaissance Corporation that will be transferred to the City of Buffalo. The Negative Declaration (determination of no significant impact on the environment) was attached to the item for review and approval.

The Agency members therefore were requested to (a) approve the SEQR Negative Declaration (determination of no significant impact on the environment and (b) approve the transfer of the Real Property to the City of Buffalo for One Dollar (\$1.00) and, if necessary, contribute an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00 towards closing costs.

**Council President Pridgen made the motion to approve Item 4a, seconded by Council Member Golombek and carried unanimously.**

**5. CDBG/GENERAL/HOME**

**Agenda Item 5a - Approval of the Budget and Four Year Plan**

Agency Members approved the Four Year Plan presented by Tracy Cooley, Deputy Director of FCA.

**Mr. Mehaffy made the motion to approve Item 5a, seconded by Commissioner Estrich and carried unanimously.**

**6. OTHER BUSINESS**

**Agenda Item 6a – Multi City Peer to Peer City Exchange Update**

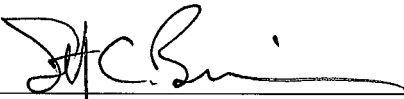
A presentation regarding BURA's multi City Government tours of Rochester, Baltimore and Syracuse was made by Scott Billman, Leslie Vishwuanath, Tremeeka Norman, Rashika Hall and Crystal Middleton.

**Agenda Item 6b - Division of Housing Update (Distribution Only)**

Director McCray, Division of Housing, distributed the housing update to Agency Members.

There being no further business to discuss, Council President Pridgen made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Council Member Scanlon and carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 am.

Respectfully submitted,

By:   
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Scott C. Billman, Secretary

Reported by: Risë Geller