

CITY OF BUFFALO URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY

Board Of Directors Meeting

Thursday, April 23, 2026

9:30 a.m., Room 912 City Hall

And was available via Microsoft Teams

Meeting ID: 272 956 728 045 95

Passcode: Lp7Ux2w5

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Vice Chairman Thomas E. Baines Corporation Counsel Rosa Pizzi  
Council President Feroletto Commissioner Jessica Brown  
Council Member Joseph Golombek Ms. Rashida Dowell  
Council Member Zeneta Everhart

**ABSENT:** Chairman Sean Ryan

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Scott Billman, Senior Director/General Counsel, Hope Young- Watkins, Senior Director, Tracy Cooley, Director of Finance, Yvonne McCray, Director of Housing, Brandon Baxter, Gabrielle Gannon, Jessica Jowrey, Raiah Brown, Maria Chudy, Holly McNamara, Claire Corbet, Rise Geller- Alongi, Fransico Guzman

**1.0** Vice Chairman Thomas E. Baines called the meeting to order at 9:32 am.

**2.0** Commissioner Jessica Brown made the motion to waive the reading of the minutes of March 26, 2026 meeting, seconded by Corporation Counsel Pizzi and carried unanimously.

**3.0 MONTHLY REPORT/ INFORMATIONAL UPDATES:**

**3.1** Financial Control of Agencies provided documentation regarding BURA's Financials and Gap Report

**4.0 ACTION ITEMS**

**4.1 Approval for the Demolition of 32 School Street**

Board members approved the demolition of 32 School Street by Hannah Demolition in the amount of \$24,000.00 As the source of funds for this demo will be CDBG, the funds will be administered and managed on behalf of the City by the Agency. The Agency will enter into agreement with the demolition contractor subject to all terms and conditions as stated in the City Bid Documents and as agreed to by the Demolition Contractor.

**Motion made by Council Member Golombek to approve Item 4.1, seconded by Commissioner Jessica Brown and carried unanimously.**

**4.2 Approval for ESG- Emergency Solutions Grants for the HUD Entitlement Grant Awards and Agreements**

Agency Board members approved the grant awards and agreements for the ESG- Emergency Solutions Grant program that addresses the critical need for housing. Jericho Road Ministries was awarded \$94,000.00 for Emergency Shelter and the Buffalo Urban League was awarded \$100,000.00 for Homelessness Prevention.

**Motion made by Corporation Counsel Pizzi to approve Item 4.2, seconded by Council Member Everhart and carried unanimously.**

**4.3 Approval of Contractor Agreement for VRP Program with Christopher Construction and Development, LLC.**

Agency Board members approved the agreement with Christopher Construction and Development LLC with total general contractor fees in an amount not to exceed \$18,000.00 for implementation of the Vacant Rental Property (VRP) Program.

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**Motion made by Ms. Dowell to approve Item 4.3, seconded by Corporation Counsel Pizzi and carried unanimously.**

**4.4 Approval of Contractor Agreement for VRP Program with 716 Ministries**

Agency Board members approved the agreement with 716 Ministries Inc. DBA 716 Ministries for implementation of the Vacant Rental Property (VRP) Program in an amount not to exceed \$36,000.00.

**Motion made by Ms. Dowell to approve Item 4.4, seconded by Commissioner Jessica Brown and carried unanimously.**

**4.5 Approval of Contractor Agreement for VRP Program with Vision Contractors Inc.**

Agency Board members approved the agreement with Vision Contractors Inc., with total general contractor fees not to exceed \$28,200.00 for implementation of the Vacant Rental Program.

**Motion made by Ms. Dowell to approve Item 4.5, seconded by Council Member Golombek and carried unanimously.**

**4.6 Approval of Contractor Agreement for VRP Program with Reno Titan Remodeling, LLC**

Agency Board members approved the agreement with Reno Titan Remodeling LLC for implementation of the Vacant Rental Property (VRP) Program not to exceed \$9,000.00.

**Motion made by Ms. Dowell to approve Item 4.6, seconded by Corporation Counsel Pizzi and carried unanimously.**

**4.7 Approval of Contractor Agreement for VRP Program with Local Crafters Construction LLC**

Agency Board members approved the agreement with Local Crafters Construction LLC for implementation of the Vacant Rental Property (VRP) Program not to exceed \$36,000.00.

**Motion made by Ms. Dowell to approve Item 4.7, seconded by Council Member Golombek and carried unanimously.**

**4.8 Authorization to Enter into Agreement with Belmont Housing Resources for Western New York, Inc. for Program Delivery Services**

Agency Board members approved the authorization for the agreement between Belmont Housing Resources for Western New York, Inc. for the management, implementation and delivery of services associated with the City of Buffalo Housing Rehabilitation and Down Payment Closing Cost Assistance Program. Funding for this agreement will be supported through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in an amount not to exceed \$600,000 and CDBG-CV funds in the amount not to exceed \$80,000.00. This agreement is for one (1) year commencing May 1, 2026, ending April 30, 2027.

**Motion made by Commissioner Jessica Brown to approve Item 4.8, seconded by Council Member Golombek and carried unanimously.**

**4.9 Authorization to Enter into Program Servicing Agreements for the Community Partnerships Initiative Programs**

Agency Board members approved the authorization to enter into five (5) one- year Programs Servicing Agreements with selected Community- Based Organizations (CBO's) for the administration and implementation of the Community Partnerships Initiative (CPI) Program. The CBO's are East Buffalo

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Community Development Corporation, Heart of the City Neighborhoods, Neighborworks Community Partners, Old First Ward Community Association and University District Community Development Association. Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) funds in the amount not to exceed \$450,000.00 will be committed across the five (5) agreements. CDBG- CV funds in an amount not to exceed \$ 5,000.00 will also be applied.

**Motion made by Council Member Golombek to approve Item 4.9, seconded by Corporation Counsel Pizzi and carried unanimously.**

**5.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**6.0 ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Jessica Brown made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Council Member Golombek and carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 am.

Scott C. Billman, BURA Secretary

Reported by: Veola D. Wingo- Bryant