

CITY OF BUFFALO URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY

Board Of Directors Meeting

Thursday, September 24, 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:

**Council President Feroletto
Councilmember Golombek
Councilmember Everhart
Corporation Counsel Pizzi
Ms. Rashida Dowell**

ABSENT:

**Mayor Sean Ryan
Deputy Mayor Thomas E. Baines**

OTHERS PRESENT: Scott C. Billman, General Counsel, Hope Young-Watkins, Chief Operating Officer, Tracy Cooley, Chief Financial Officer, Jessica Jowrey, Brandon Baxter, Gabrielle Gannon, Raiah Brown, Francisco Guzmán, Rebecca Harris, Jessica Starks, Nathan Miller.

- 1.0 Secretary Scott C. Billman called the meeting to order at 9:32 am.
- 2.0 Commissioner Bryce Link made the motion to waive the reading of the minutes of August 27, 2026 meeting, seconded by Council President Feroletto and carried unanimously.
- 3.0 **MONTHLY REPORT/ INFORMATIONAL UPDATES:**
 - 3.1 An update was given to the Board on the Vacant Rental Property (VRP) Program by Francisco Guzmán.
 - 3.2 A Public Service update was given to the Board by Jessica Starks.
- 4.0 **ACTION ITEMS**
 - 4.1 **2026-2027 Proposed HUD Entitlement Grant Awards for CDBG, ESG, and HOPWA**

Board members approved the CDBG-Community Development Block Grant-Public Services Activities, ESG-Emergency Solutions Grants & HOPWA-Housing Opportunities for Persons Living with AIDS. The Board also approved the recommended Entitlement agency grant awards that will authorize BURA to execute all agreements and related documents to carry out the projects identified in this item, consistent with the rules and regulations governing the CDBG Public Services, ESG, and HOPWA programs. This approval and authorization are subject to all required environmental certifications.

Motion made by Council President Feroletto to approve Item 4.1, seconded by Councilmember Golombek and carried unanimously.
 - 4.2 **2025-2026 Fund Increase for Friends of Night People's ESG Street Outreach Agreement**

Board members approved a proposed Contract Amendment for Friends of Night People (FONP) as the passthrough entity for Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) funding for the annual event known as Project Homeless Connect. This request amends contract B0000079 HESG Street Outreach Friends of Night People with an increase of \$10,000.00, bringing the total contract authorization from \$35,000.00 to \$45,000.00.

Motion made by Councilmember Everhart to approve Item 4.2, seconded by Commissioner Bryce Link and carried unanimously.
 - 4.3 **Contract Amendment: 2025-2026 Funding Increase – Evergreen Health Services**

Board members approved a contract amendment for the 2025-2026 agreement with Evergreen Health Services, increasing the total contract value by \$148,000.00.

This amendment allocates additional financial support across three core project areas:

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Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA): Expands direct rental and utility assistance to assist low-income households in securing and maintaining stable housing.

Facility-Based Housing Assistance (FBHA): Increases support for facility operations and emergency/transitional housing services.

Administrative Costs: Provides supplemental administrative funding to cover increased operational and program oversight expenses required to support the program's expansion.

Motion made by Councilmember Everhart to approve Item 4.3, seconded by Council President Feroletto and carried unanimously.

4.4 Approval to enter into Agreements with businesses being awarded CDBG Economic Development Funds.

Board members approved the agreements with businesses being awarded CDBG Economic Development Funds. Eligible businesses will receive an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00 in grant assistance.

Motion made by Commissioner Bryce Link to approve Item 4.4, seconded by Council president Feroletto and carried unanimously.

4.5 Approval of Contractor Agreement for ADU (Accessory Dwelling Unit) Program with Reno Titan Remodeling.

Board members approved the Agreement with BURA (Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency) and Titan Reno Remodeling for the ADU (accessory Dwelling Unit) Program.

Motion made by Ms. Rashida Dowell to approve Item 4.5, seconded by Corporation Counsel Pizzi and carried unanimously.

4.6 Approval of Contractor Agreement for ADU (Accessory Dwelling Unit) Program with WNY First Choice.

Agency Board members approved the Agreement with BURA (Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency) with WNY First Choice for the ADU (Accessory Dwelling Unit) Program.

Motion made by Corporation Counsel Pizzi to approve Item.4.6, seconded by Councilmember Everhart and carried unanimously.

5.0 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Ms. Rashida Dowell made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Corporation Counsel Pizzi and carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 am.



Scott C. Billman, BURA Secretary

Reported by: Veola D. Wingo- Bryant