

RESIDENT ADVISORY
BOARD
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COUNCIL

BMHA



October 3rd, 2018

Mr. Renato Graham
Resident Advisory Board Chair
517 Fourth St.
Buffalo, NY, 14201

Honorable Councilman Rasheed N.C Wyatt
65 Niagara Square
Buffalo, NY 14202

Dear Councilman Wyatt,

The Resident Advisory Board hopes that you, as Chair of the Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Task Force for the Buffalo Common Council, will support the empowerment of Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority (BMHA) residents to establish their own businesses. In particular, an incubating organization must be formed to promote Resident-Owned Businesses by providing adequate training on qualifications and certifications. These businesses can then bid on work in the City of Buffalo and the BMHA. Residents would work locally, including on their own housing – and the public dollars spent will directly support the local economy and the alleviation of poverty.

There is legal support for an incubator of this nature. Pursuant to Part 963, Subpart B, Section 963.10, of Chapter IX of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Code of Federal Regulations, the BMHA is obligated to contract with eligible resident-owned businesses. Pursuant to Section 964.7 of the same, "Financial assistance in the form of technical assistance grants is available to RCs/RMCs to prepare to manage activities in their public housing developments." By utilizing existent funding streams to support and train BMHA residents where they live, Buffalo can lower the number of residents living in poverty, and raise up its residents. This effort is imperative, as the City of Buffalo ranks as one of the poorest in the nation. Additionally, it is the 6th most racially segregated city in the nation – and by BMHA's own records, the majority of municipal housing residents are people of color

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Renato Graham

Resident Advisory Board President