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## Alexandria Redevelopment & Housing Authority (ARHA)

### Press Release

May 6, 2016

#### ROY PRIEST TO STEP DOWN AS CEO OF ARHA

The Alexandria Redevelopment & Housing Authority (ARHA) Board of Commissioners announced today that Roy Priest, CEO, for the past nine years, has decided to step down from his position, effective the middle of FY 2017. This will complete his fifty year career in the housing and community economic development field.

In his letter, Roy Priest said that “I have guided ARHA through a period of transformation in every facet from organizational reform to repositioning the Agency with HUD, the City Departments and Agencies, and the community stakeholder who have been significant partners in the provision of outstanding programs and services. But most of all I have laid the foundation to forge and implement a new relationship, built on mutual respect, with our residents”.

The longest tenured ARHA Commissioner, Carter Flemming, upon learning of Roy Priest’s planned departure stated that he joined ARHA at a critical time and we have gone from “Boarding Up to Building Up” since he became the CEO. We have been able to complete the redevelopment of six hundred and twenty one (621) mixed- income units that have generated \$25M of residential and commercial tax revenue; created a pipeline of five hundred and thirty (530) units in redevelopment planning; completed and implemented a strategic plan; planned and implemented more than twenty (20) community-based programs for residents; improved the overall quality and condition of ARHA properties; created resident self-sufficiency programs; secured the long term financial stability of the Agency and developed a high performing staff.

The ARHA Board of Commissioners plan to use the period between now and Roy Priest’s departure date to implement a “Model Executive Transition” process, complete the reorganization of the agency that commenced one month ago, and advance the redevelopment plans for the five RFP sites.

Roy Priest will work with the ARHA Board of Commissioners during the “Model Executive Transition” period to establish the standards and criteria that will guide the selection of the next CEO. This leadership change will position the Agency to continue on a course to become a HUD designated “Moving to Work” Agency that will be capable of competing in an increasingly volatile and challenging funding environment.

ARHA Board Chairman Daniel Bauman, acknowledged that the work Roy Priest has performed has made a lasting impact on the redevelopment of affordable housing in the City of Alexandria. His enthusiasm has been contagious and ARHA is a much stronger organization because of his passion and leadership.

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