



RESIDENT ADVISORY BOARD
Housing Opportunities Commission
10400 Detrick Avenue
Kensington, Maryland 20895
240-627-9735

March 20, 2023

Ms. Chelsea J. Andrews
Executive Director
Housing Opportunities Commission
10400 Detrick Avenue
Kensington, Maryland 20895

RE: Endorsement of Federal Fiscal Year 2023 (HOC Fiscal Year 2024) PHA Plan

Dear Ms. Andrews:

This letter certifies that the Resident Advisory Board (“RAB”) to the Housing Opportunities Commission (“HOC”) of Montgomery County reviewed and discussed the proposed Federal Fiscal Year (“FFY”) 2023 ((HOC Fiscal Year (“FY”) 2024)) Annual Public Housing Agency (“PHA”) Plan. Please be advised that the RAB fully supports and endorses the proposed PHA Plan.

The RAB is pleased that the Housing Resources Division (“HRD”), Resident Services Division (“RSD”), Real Estate Development Division (“RED”), and the agency as a whole, were able to adapt during the COVID-19 pandemic to continue to provide housing opportunities and services to our customers, and to take proactive steps towards making general operations more efficient going forward. Specifically, the RED’s continued development of affordable housing throughout the county, HRD’s use of innovative technology to improve efficiency, Inspection Services’ implementation of remote video inspections, and the success of the RSD Fatherhood Initiative program.

It is also important to note HRD’s achievement of increasing the Housing Choice Voucher (“HCV”) utilization rates to 96% in order to maximize affordable housing opportunities to Montgomery County residents.

The RAB also appreciates HRD’s detailed analysis of the HCV portfolio while making a calculated decision to increase the payment standards to 112% of the Fair Market Rents (“FMR”). It is critical that we use every opportunity to maximize the impact of the HCV program at HOC.

The RAB is also pleased to see that HUD has implemented updates to the Family Self Sufficiency (“FSS”) program and that HRD successfully updated HOC’s FSS Action Plan and obtained HUD’s timely approval.

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Member



The demand for affordable housing in Montgomery County remains far higher than the supply, as evidenced by the 35,755 active applicants on HOC's affordable housing wait list. It is imperative that HOC continue to provide affordable housing opportunities to residents, not only through the HCV program, but also through the preservation and development of affordable housing units in its portfolio.

Sincerely,

Tashea Walters

Ms. Tashae Walters
President