

Leadership changes announced at London Housing Authority

BY MACEE SWAFFORD
STAFF WRITER

LONDON — The Housing Authority of London has announced multiple leadership and administrative changes following recent public discussion regarding operations at the agency.

In a written message distributed to residents, the Housing Authority confirmed that effective Jan. 13, Stephanie Newson, Bethani Smith and Jacob Beckham were no longer employed with the Housing Authority of London.

The announcement comes after a video posted to Facebook by London Mayor Randall Weddle, who also serves as a member on the Housing Authority Board, alongside board member and Housing Authority resident Helen McCoy. In the video, the two addressed concerns surrounding the Housing Authority, while

emphasizing that steps were being taken to stabilize the agency and ensure continued services for residents.

In the Facebook video, instances of checks allegedly not being deducted from the tenets rent for over three months, as well as issues of reaching maintenance and prior leadership were also touched on in the interview-style video posted by Mayor Weddle.

According to the letter, the Board of Commissioners has moved to ensure continuity and forward progress by hiring Michelle Ellis as the new director of the Housing Authority. In addition, the board has hired Katie Johnson as the new finance director.

The current Housing Authority Board of Commissioners includes Vanessa Miller, chair; Helen McCoy, assistant chair and Housing Authority resident; Randall Weddle,

board member; and Cathy Cook, board member and Housing Authority resident.

In the letter to residents, the board emphasized transparency and sought to reassure tenants that there is no intent to shut down operations or displace residents from their homes.

"The goal of the Housing Authority of London is not to shut down operations, and there is no intent to move residents out of their homes," the message stated. "Your housing stability is our top priority."

The letter also stated that its focus during the transition period is restoring and maintaining regulatory and financial integrity. It was noted that they are actively working with representatives from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, as well as other public housing experts, to ensure proper pro-

cedures and best practices are being followed.

Residents were advised in the notice that some delays in communication may occur during the transition, including returned phone calls or

responses, as office operations are reviewed and reorganized.

Mayor Weddle and London City Council member Donna House were reached out to for comment, but did

not respond back as of press time.

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