



June 25, 2019

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Commissioners
President Casius Pealer, Commissioner Toni Hackett Antrum, Commissioner Isabel Barrios, Commissioner Sharon Jasper, Commissioner Debra Joseph, Commissioner Kim Piper, and Commissioner Lisha A. Wheeler

Through Gregg Fortner
Executive Director

From: Kelly Walker
Director, Human Resources

RE: Approval and Execution of Executive Director Contract

In accordance with the provisions of La. R.S. 40:539(C)(1) of the Louisiana Housing Authorities Law, the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) Board of Commissioners is required to select a Secretary of the HANO Board of Commissioners who shall also serve as the Executive Director and Chief Administrative Officer of HANO. Furthermore, the HANO Board of Commissioners is to enter into an employment contract with the person selected to fill these positions.

By Resolution No. 2014-14 dated June 26, 2014, the Board of Commissioners approved the selection of Gregg Fortner for these positions and authorized the President of the HANO Board of Commissioners to execute a contract of employment between HANO and Mr. Fortner that allowed Mr. Fortner to begin serving as Secretary of the HANO Board of Commissioners, Executive Director of HANO, and Chief Administrative Officer of HANO on July 7, 2014. Additional employment contracts of employment that allowed Mr. Fortner to continue as the Secretary of the HANO Board of Commissioners, Executive Director of HANO, and Chief Administrative Officer of HANO were subsequently executed with Mr. Fortner by HANO.

On February 7, 2019 Mr. Fortner informed HANO that he “would not be seeking a new contract and/or an extension of the current contract beyond the July 7, 2019 end date” of his current contract of employment with HANO. Thereafter, the HANO Board of Commissioners began the process of finding a person to succeed Mr. Fortner as Secretary of the HANO Board of Commissioners, Executive Director of HANO, and Chief Administrative Officer of HANO

On April 30, 2019, the President of the HANO Board of Commissioners established an Ad Hoc Executive Director Search Committee in accordance with Art. IX, Sec. 1 of HANO’s Bylaws. The Ad Hoc Executive Search Committee met on May 20, 2019, May 24, 2019, and June 22, 2019 to conduct a search for an executive director to succeed Mr. Fortner.

Although the Ad Hoc Executive Search Committee selected two finalists, one withdrew and therefore on June 22, 2019 the Ad Hoc Executive Search Committee named Evette Hester as its choice to be the successor to Mr. Fortner.

Also on June 22, 2019, a Special Meeting of the HANO Board of Commissioners was convened to interview Evette Hester as the finalist in the search for the successor to Mr. Fortner.

After interviewing Ms. Hester on June 22, 2019, and after deliberating the selection of Ms. Hester as the successor to Mr. Fortner at the Regular Meeting of the HANO Board of Commissioners on June 25, 2019, the HANO Board of Commissioners selected Evette Hester to be the successor to Gregg Fortner as the Secretary of the HANO Board of Commissioners, Executive Director of HANO and Chief Administrative Officer of HANO.

It is respectfully requested that the Board of Commissioners approve the selection of Evette Hester for the positions of Secretary of the HANO Board of Commissioners, Executive Director of HANO and Chief Administrative Officer of HANO. It is further requested that the Board of Commissioners authorize HANO to enter into negotiations with Ms. Hester for the purpose of reaching an agreement with her on the terms of an employment contract that will have her succeed Mr. Fortner in serving as the Secretary of the HANO Board of Commissioners, the Executive Director of HANO, and the Chief Administrative Officer of HANO.

**HOUSING AUTHORITY OF NEW ORLEANS
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 25, 2019**

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-13

WHEREAS, The Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) was organized pursuant to the provisions of the Louisiana Housing Authorities Law, La. R.S. 40:381, et.seq; and

WHEREAS, La. R.S. 40:539(C)(1) requires the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) Board of Commissioners to select a Secretary of the HANO Board of Commissioners who shall also serve as the Executive Director and Chief Administrative Officer of HANO; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 2014-14 dated June 26, 2014, the Board of Commissioners approved the selection of Gregg Fortner for these positions; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fortner filled these positions at HANO through July 7, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the departure of Mr. Fortner from these positions at HANO necessitates selection of a successor to Mr. Fortner by the HANO Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, an Ad Hoc Executive Director Search Committee was established on April 30, 2019 in accordance with Art. IX, Sec. 1 of HANO's Bylaws for the purpose of conducting a search for Mr. Fortner's successor; and

WHEREAS, the Ad Hoc Executive Search Committee met on May 20, 2019, May 24, 2019, and June 22, 2019 to conduct a search for Mr. Fortner's successor; and

WHEREAS, on June 22, 2019, the Ad Hoc Executive Search Committee selected Evette Hester as the finalist in its search for the successor to Mr. Fortner; and

WHEREAS, the Ad Hoc Executive Search Committee further recommended on June 22, 2019 that the HANO Board of Commissioners interview Evette Hester, and thereafter choose the successor to Mr. Fortner; and

WHEREAS, the HANO Board of Commissioners met in a Special Meeting on June 22, 2019 to interview Evette Hester; and

WHEREAS, the HANO Board of Commissioners deliberated the question of who would be the successor to Mr. Fortner on June 25, 2019, and thereafter chose Evette Hester as the successor to Mr. Fortner; and

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THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of New Orleans does hereby authorize HANO to enter into negotiations with Evette Hester for the purpose of reaching an agreement with her on the terms of an employment contract that will have her serve as the Secretary of the HANO Board of Commissioners, the Executive Director of HANO, and the Chief Administrative Officer of HANO.

Executed this 25th day of June, 2019.

APPROVAL:

CASIUS PEALER
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS