

**HOUSING AUTHORITY OF NEW ORLEANS
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 29, 2016**

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-03

WHEREAS, in keeping with applicable regulations at 24 CFR Part 903, the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) has amended its Public Housing Agency (PHA) Plan for Fiscal Year 2016 (October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016); and

WHEREAS, said Amendment consists of policy revisions relative to HUD's Equal Access Rule, the 2013 Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (VAWA); and Criminal Background Screening; and

WHEREAS, the revisions appear in redline text within the Public Housing Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy (ACOP) and the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Administrative Plan which are appended to the PHA Plan document; and

WHEREAS, core elements include: clarifying the definition of "family" which delineates equal access to HUD-assisted housing programs regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status; providing greater housing protections for VAWA victims; and expanding housing opportunities for applicants with criminal records; and

WHEREAS, HANO issued the required public notice and made drafts of the Amended PHA Plan and the accompanying ACOP and HCV Administrative Plan available for 45-day comment on February 5, 2016; and

WHEREAS, a consultation meeting was held with the HANO Resident Advisory Board on February 22, 2016; a Public Hearing was conducted on March 21, 2016; and the Amendment was discussed with the Development, Asset Management & Operations Committee of the HANO Board of Commissioners at its meeting on March 22, 2016; and

WHEREAS, HANO considered comments from the Resident Advisory Board, HANO residents at-large, advocacy organizations, and the general public before finalizing the PHA Plan Amendment;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners hereby adopts HANO's amended FY 2016 PHA Plan with the accompanying policies and authorizes their submission to HUD with the required certifications.

Executed this 29th day of March, 2016

APPROVAL:



**DWAYNE G. BERNAL
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**



March 29, 2016

MEMORANDUM

**To: Board of Commissioners
President Dwayne G. Bernal, Vice President Alice Riener,
Commissioner Toni Hackett Antrum, Commissioner Donna Johnigan,
Commissioner Debra Joseph, Commissioner Glen Pilié,
Commissioner Vonda Rice and Commissioner Cantrese Wilson**

**Through: Gregg Fortner
Executive Director**

**From: Shelley Smith
Director, Strategic Planning**

**Re: Authorization to Submit HANO's Amended Public Housing Agency (PHA)
Plans to HUD**

In accordance with federal regulations 24 CFR Part 903, the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO)'s Fiscal Year 2016 Public Housing Agency (PHA) Plan has been amended to incorporate policy revisions relative to HUD's Equal Access Rule; the 2013 Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (VAWA); and Criminal Background Screening. The proposed revisions appear in redline text within the Public Housing Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy (ACOP) and in the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Administrative Plan which are appended to the PHA Plan document. Core elements include: clarifying the definition of "family" which delineates equal access to HUD-assisted housing programs regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status; providing greater housing protections for victims covered under VAWA; and expanding housing opportunities for applicants with criminal records.

In response to comments received during the previous planning cycle, HANO led a 6-month long work effort centered on HANO's Criminal Background policies and procedures. An initial Stakeholder Workshop was convened in August 2015 and a Focus Group was subsequently formed to conduct in-depth review and provide recommendations on HANO's Criminal Background provisions. The Focus Group was comprised of a cross-section of HANO resident leaders, third-party property managers, HCV landlords, housing and ex-offender advocates, social service providers, and other government agency staff, and met monthly from October through December 2015.

On February 5, 2016, HANO issued a public notice, making the Amended PHA Plan and the redlined ACOP and HCV Administrative Plan available for 45-day comment. Detailed Criminal Background Screening Procedures were also posted for review at that time. A consultation meeting was held with the HANO Resident Advisory Board on February 22, 2016; a Public Hearing was conducted on March 21, 2016; and the FY 2016 PHA Plan Amendment was discussed with the Development, Asset Management & Operations Committee of the HANO

Board of Commissioners at its meeting on March 22, 2016. All comments were carefully considered before finalizing the respective plan/policy documents.

It is requested that the HANO Board of Commissioner's adopt HANO's FY 2016 PHA Plan Amendment and accompanying policy revisions and authorize their submission to HUD with the required certifications.