



## MESA HOUSING SERVICES GOVERNING BOARD

April 14, 2005

The Mesa Housing Services Governing Board of the City of Mesa met in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on April 14, 2005 at 7:30 a.m.

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT	BOARDMEMBERS ABSENT	STAFF PRESENT
Keno Hawker, Chairman Rex Griswold Kyle Jones Tom Rawles Janie Thom Claudia Walters Mike Whalen William H. Egan, Sr.	None	Mike Hutchinson Debbie Spinner Barbara Jones

1. Conduct a public hearing to discuss Mesa Housing Services' Streamlined Five-Year Plan.

Chairman Hawker announced that this is the time and place for a public hearing regarding Mesa Housing Services' Streamlined Five-Year Plan.

There being no citizens present wishing to speak on this issue, the Chairman declared the public hearing closed.

2. Conduct a public hearing to discuss Mesa Housing Services' Streamlined Annual Plan.

Chairman Hawker announced that this is the time and place for a public hearing regarding Mesa Housing Services' Streamlined Annual Plan.

There being no citizens present wishing to speak on this issue, the Chairman declared the public hearing closed.

3. Consider a resolution authorizing approval and submission of the Streamlined Five-Year Plan.

Mayor Hawker welcomed Mr. Egan to the meeting.

Housing Services Director Ruth Anne Norris and Senior Housing Specialist Debbie Cooke addressed the Boardmembers relative to this agenda item.

Ms. Norris reported that the Board has been provided with copies of the Five-Year and Annual Plans. She explained that as a result of the Board's input at its April 7, 2005 meeting, staff has suggested two additional Public Housing Agency (PHA) goals (in addition to the objectives previously outlined) to be considered during the next five-year period. The goals are as follows:

- Work with HUD to reform regulations while increasing local PHA flexibility. **The City of Mesa Governing Board and MHSD (Mesa Housing Services Division) will support changes to the HUD regulations that will further promote self-sufficiency in accordance with local area needs.**
- Work with HUD to reform regulations that would give PHAs flexibility to adapt programs to local conditions. **The City of Mesa Governing Board and MHSD will support changes to HUD regulations that would allow PHAs flexibility to customize program regulations to be more reflective of the local community's needs.**

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that one of the MHSD's goals is to encourage the self-sufficiency of its Section 8 Program participants; that certain individuals have "learned how to work the system" and that staff would like certain tools to address such issues; that 24% of the program's participants include families with children, 28% are elderly and 43% are disabled; that the City conducts a criminal records screening of potential participants, and if an individual has been convicted of a felony within the past five years or committed certain drug or sex-related offenses, they are ineligible for the program; and that staff has adopted a set of policies for participation in the program and are mindful that Federal resources should not be used to house individuals engaged in antisocial behavior.

Boardmember Rawles requested that staff provide him with a copy of the above-referenced policies for his review. He also stated that with regard to staff's selection of individuals to receive Section 8 housing, he would specifically make a distinction between individuals engaged in antisocial behavior (i.e., actively involved in drug activity) and someone who has been convicted of a crime, completed probation and is now trying to work his or her way back into society.

Boardmember Egan stated that through his attendance at various Housing Advisory Board and Housing and Human Services Advisory Board meetings, staff has assisted him in gaining a certain level of familiarity with regards to Federal housing issues. He commended staff for their professionalism and hard work and said that it has been a pleasure meeting and working with them in this regard.

It was moved by Boardmember Egan, seconded by Boardmember Walters, that a Resolution authorizing approval and submission of the Five-Year Plan be adopted.

Boardmember Whalen concurred with Boardmember Rawles' comments regarding the criminal screening of potential participants in the Section 8 Program and also encouraged staff to revisit the City's Crime Free Housing Policy.

Carried unanimously.

4. Consider a resolution authorizing approval and submission of the Streamlined Annual Plan.

It was moved by Boardmember Egan, seconded by Boardmember Walters, that a Resolution authorizing approval and submission of the Streamlined Annual Plan be adopted.

Carried unanimously.

Chairman Hawker thanked Mr. Egan for his participation.

5. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Mesa Housing Services Governing Board Meeting adjourned at 7:47 a.m.

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KENO HAWKER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Mesa Housing Services Governing Board of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of April 2005. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

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BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK

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