



RRHA

nFocus

A newsletter for the employees of the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority

Special Edition July 2006

A Farewell: Sheila Hill-Christian recognized at June Board of Commissioners meeting



RRHA Board of Commissioners (l-r) Elliott Harrigan, George Smith, Chairman Charles T. Peters, Jr., Guenet M.M. Beshah, Esq., Marilyn Olds and Brian Jackson, Esq. present parting gifts to Ms. Hill-Christian (c).

Congratulatory phrases and well-wishers filled the conference room for Mrs. Sheila-Hill Christian's departure at the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority's (RRHA) Board of Commissioners meeting on Thursday, June 8.

Hill-Christian begins her new position as Executive Director of the Virginia Lottery July 1. Her last day at RRHA was Friday, June 16.

She was recognized with farewell remarks and parting gifts presented by the Board of Commissioners and others, including a special gag-gift of Lottery Tickets presented by the Deputy Executive Directors.

In her own farewell remarks to the organization, Hill-Christian encouraged RRHA employees to be proactive and not lose focus of the goals of the RRHA Strategic Plan.

"As we close this chapter of the agency and prepare for the next," she said, "...please continue to remain committed to the vision and the mission. Stay focused and determined to fulfill the destiny of [RRHA's] vision by enthusiastically embracing the mission that you helped ... to build," she said.

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Anthony Scott Appointed Interim Executive Director

Anthony Scott, Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority's (RRHA) Deputy Executive Director for Community Revitalization, has been announced as Interim Executive Director by the RRHA Board of Commissioners, effective with Sheila Hill-Christian's June 16 departure.

Hill-Christian announced her resignation at the end of May, and is currently taking over as the new Executive Director of the Virginia Lottery.

Scott joined RRHA in November 2005, and brings with him over 15 years of experience in comprehensive community revitalization through neighborhood development, affordable housing and economic community development activities. His background includes developing and implementing projects and programs in both residential and commercial development.

Formerly an Associate Director of the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (VDHCD), he directed the Office of Community Capacity Building that provided technical assistance, among other things, in the areas of real estate development and project and program development.

Prior to his position at VDHCD, he was president of his own consulting firm and Executive Director of the Dunbar Economic Development Corporation, a non-profit economic development organization in Los Angeles, California.

As Deputy Executive Director for Community Revitalization at RRHA, he was responsible for overseeing RRHA's neighborhood revitalization initiatives, developing partnerships to create innovative mixed finance projects and reactivating the agency's community development corporation.

Mrs. Hill-Christian stated that she was pleased with the Board's decision to appoint Scott as Interim Executive Director.

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She went on to instruct employees to maintain and nurture partnerships and to remain vigilant.

"For almost three years, you saw me as the leader. But for all of that time, you were the inspiration for me," she told employees. "...As I prepare to leave RRHA, I want to say thank you to everyone for their contributions to the success of this Authority," she said.

In addition to presenting her with a "Resolution of Appreciation" certificate for her hard work and dedication to the Authority, RRHA Board of Commissioners Chairman Charles T. Peters, Jr. took a moment to congratulate Mrs. Hill-Christian and share remarks of his own. "It's been a wonderful experience, I've known Sheila for a long time," he said. He went on to wish her well in her endeavors. "Have fun," he told her.

Rodney Monroe, chief of police for the City of Richmond Police Department, also shared comments at the meeting in addition to presenting Hill-Christian with a parting gift.

"This has been quite an experience for me," said Monroe.

"Coming here a little over 16 months ago, Sheila was one



Sheila Hill-Christian offers remarks at Board Meeting



Deputy Executive Directors (l-r) Stephen Kopalchick, Anthony Scott, Ken Francis, and Cassandra Scarborough present a special gift!

of three people that I met [and began working with] from the very beginning. It has been a wonderful relationship, ... it was strictly how can we help one another, how can we get things done. I hope that we can keep this relationship. ... I expect us to keep this relationship," he said. During the meeting, the Board also announced that Anthony Scott, Deputy Executive Director for Community Revitalization, will serve as Interim Executive Director. "I look forward to working with the very talented team of employees here at RRHA as we continue with the implementation of our Strategic Plan," he said.

Scott joined RRHA in November 2005. **LF**

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"With his vast knowledge ... he has the experience and vision to lead RRHA in reaching its goals ..." she said.

Scott replied that he is "honored to have this opportunity to continue the important work of the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority. This is an exciting time for RRHA. We are poised to be a catalyst for Richmond's redevelopment as this agency will provide quality housing, economic development opportunities and community support." "I appreciate the confidence that the Board and Mrs. Hill-Christian have in me," he said.




Anthony Scott

Charles T. Peters, Jr., Chairman of RRHA Board of Commissioners, also expressed his confidence in Scott. "We all feel the Authority is fortunate to have someone with Mr. Scott's experience and abilities to lead the agency while we search for the individual who will maintain the momentum and direction established by our Strategic Plan," he said.

"The Board of Commissioners is confident that Mr. Scott will respond to the opportunity."

Scott received a Bachelor of Architecture Degree from

Howard University in Washington, D.C. and a Master of Urban Planning Degree from the University of California in Los Angeles, California. He has been a commissioner with the City of Los Angeles El Pueblo de Los Angeles Monument Authority, a member of several community development committees and a guest lecturer at various colleges in California. **LF**



Richmond Redevelopment & Housing Authority

Anthony Scott, Interim Executive Director
Valena Dixon, Editor, Communications Director

InFocus is published for the employees of the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority. It is produced by the Communications Department, 901 Chamberlayne Parkway, 780-4167. We welcome submissions from all employees and we reserve the right to edit.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

AGENCY-WIDE STAFF MEETING

Wednesday, June 28 - 2:00 p.m.

at the Calhoun Center Gymnasium

(Note: RRHA offices will close at 1:30 p.m.)