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CMHA Board will not tolerate corruption;

Fully cooperating with local, state and federal investigators

Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority Chairman Ronald V. Johnson, Jr. said today that maintaining the integrity of CMHA and safeguarding taxpayer dollars to fulfill the needs of residents and voucher recipients remain the organization's highest priority. "There is no place in our organization for corruption," Johnson said.

Johnson said the board and CMHA executive staff members are fully cooperating with local, state and federal authorities looking into the voucher program and other administrative and personnel matters. "We know the vast majority of our employees perform at the highest level and we appreciate the work that they do."

The Chairman sent a message to the 900 employees of CMHA (attached) that the board expects all staff to continue to provide a high level of service to residents and voucher recipients during this period of increased scrutiny by state and federal authorities.

"We know this is a challenging period, but we must continue our mission of providing safe and affordable housing to the 53,000 people who are depending on us," Johnson said.

An extensive review of CMHA policies, procedures and practices is underway to ensure the integrity of all programs. Financial operations are regularly audited internally, by HUD and by an independent auditor approved by the State of Ohio. CMHA has attained 10 consecutive years of unqualified audits. Audited financial statements for recent years are available on the CMHA website www.cmha.net.

During this same time period, the Housing Choice Voucher Program has been rated a high performer by HUD, the highest ranking given by the Department. CMHA is one of only a very few large housing agencies to achieve this rating.

Over the past several years CMHA has implemented a number initiatives designed to improve financial operations. Here are some examples:

1. Energy performance contracts have generated savings of close to \$14 million over a two year period.
2. Procurement is centralized in order to take advantage of economies of scale.

3. Later this year, CMHA will consolidate administrative and maintenance staff in a new campus facility, which will provide greater control over occupancy expenses.
4. CMHA is implementing document imaging and workflow improvements to streamline operations.

Chairman Johnson said he will continue to work with the board and the staff of CMHA to address the issues facing it and to provide for the housing needs of thousands of individuals and families in Cleveland and the metropolitan area.

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