

**Request for Action
By
Board of Commissioners**

Approval of External Charitable Donations and Contributions

1. Summary of Action

This Request for Action is for approval and ratification of external Charitable Donations and Contributions of Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation (“RIHousing”) pursuant to the Quasi-Public Corporations Accountability and Transparency Act, Chapter 155 of Title 42 of the Rhode Island General Laws (the “Act”).

2. Discussion

RIHousing is a public corporation of the State of Rhode Island. In carrying out its statutorily-defined public purposes, RIHousing collaborates with a number of organizations that share and advance its mission. In some instances, RIHousing is asked to financially support programs and activities of organizations engaged in activities that are consistent with and further its public purposes. RIHousing is often invited by its community partners to attend or gain recognition at community events, such as annual meetings or fundraisers, where our organizational presence is necessary or desirable.

At its meeting of December 11, 2014, the Board of Commissioners adopted the Handbook of Policies and Procedures to Ensure Accountability (the “Handbook”) pursuant to the Act. Section C of the Handbook sets forth RIHousing’s policy on charitable and civic donation. This Section provides that, consistent with the Act, all Charitable Donations and Contributions must be approved or ratified by the full Board of Commissioners at an open meeting.

Attachment A sets forth events for which RIHousing has or will make a Charitable Donation or Contribution. This Attachment A identifies the recipient of the expenditure, the amount of the expenditure, the nature of the event, the reason for supporting the event or recipient, each Commissioner or employee who will receive any benefit from the expenditure, and the general ledger account number where the expenditure will be recorded in RIHousing’s accounting system. None of these expenditures require any disclosure under the Rhode Island Code of Ethics.

RIHousing’s support of the work of the organization(s) listed on Attachment A furthers our corporate purposes of encouraging and stimulating the development of housing to alleviate the shortage of safe and sanitary residential housing for low- and moderate-income persons as set forth in R.I.G.L. §42-55-2(a). For example, the Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless (“RICH”) is organized to promote and preserve the dignity and quality of life for men, women, and children by pursuing comprehensive and cooperative solutions to the problems of housing and homelessness. RICH is one of the leading organizations in Rhode Island advocating for solutions to the problem of housing for homeless persons and families. RICH’s 2020 Annual Awards Breakfast was held virtually. Our very own, Elizabeth Bioteau from the Leased Housing and Rental Services Division was honored with the Senator Jack Reed Advocacy Award for her advocacy efforts in maintaining the safety and well-being of those experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic. The work of this organization furthers and supports the mission of RIHousing.

3. Recommendation

The attached resolution is recommended for adoption.

4. Attachment

- A. Statement of Charitable Donations and Contributions
- B. Resolution

Attachment A

Statement of Charitable Donations and Contributions

[See Attached]

Attachment B

**Resolution of the
Board of Commissioners of
Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation**

- Whereas,** the legislative findings set forth in Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation’s (“RIHousing”) enabling act (R.I.G.L. §42-55-2(a)) provide that the serious shortage of safe and sanitary residential housing leads to environmental decline, depreciated value, reduced tax-paying capacity and impaired investment in the communities of the state; and
- Whereas,** RIHousing is authorized by statute to take action to encourage new housing in an orderly and sustained manner and to encourage and stimulate the construction of such housing through public financial support; and
- Whereas,** the organization(s) set forth in Attachment A presented at this meeting have asked RIHousing to provide financial support of their activities as described in Attachment A; and
- Whereas,** the organization(s) set forth in Attachment A plays an important role in supporting community revitalization and the development of affordable homes for low- and moderate-income families and individuals and policies that impact RIHousing’s mission; and
- Whereas,** RIHousing staff has reviewed the request for financial support and determined that it is consistent with RIHousing’s legislative purposes; and
- Whereas,** Attachment A sets forth the information required by the Quasi-Public Corporations Accountability and Transparency Act, Chapter 155 of Title 42 of the Rhode Island General Laws.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY:

- Resolved,** that the expenditure(s) set forth in Attachment A are consistent with and in furtherance of the mission and policy initiatives of RIHousing.
- Resolved,** the expenditure(s) set forth in Attachment A are hereby approved and ratified.
- Resolved,** that the Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director and the Chief Operating Officer, each acting singly, are hereby authorized and directed to take any and all actions they deem necessary and appropriate to carry out the forgoing resolutions.