

PRESS RELEASE FOR MARC A. STARLING [KENNER MAYOR DISMANTLES HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD DEMANDS RESIGNATION OF ED]

August 20, 2017

I am saddened/dismayed by the recent actions and comments by the Kenner Mayor but not surprised...attack the victim to discredit, demean and dehumanize as to make them an object not a person.

In my several months as Executive Director of the Kenner Housing Authority (“KHA”), we have accomplished many things that forever will be monumental at this Agency. It is unfortunate that change is embraced with such animosity due to ones lack of vision.

The Mayor of Kenner’s actions only continue the hostile work environment that I have been subjected to; using words like mismanagement and ethics to drown/overshadow harassment, hostility, discrimination and racism continues the division in our country/community. To publically bash and intimidate me is a playbook that many before me had to endure in hopes of bringing needed social change in our country.

As a child who grew up in Public Housing, I consider myself the walking billboard of what the Public Housing Program can produce. I have been an advocate for creating sustainable communities. Attacking my professional career with such one sided bias and hurtful allegations has done such harm to my reputation that it can affect my potential future economic growth.

Let me make this perfectly clear, I, Marc A. Starling –HAVE NEVER MISMANAGED ANY FUNDS and my ETHICS are tied to my humble beginnings of treating people FAIR; it is ironic to say I/alone cancel contracts, when the entire three members of the Board voted unanimously to move in the direction the KHA took based upon information that they were not aware of prior to my being hired....As far as violating the KHA Procurement Policy, in my previous letters/emails I have stated that I was NEVER given ANY policies and thus followed the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) Procurement Handbook since the KHA is 100% funded by HUD. My resume was not misleading. My Graduate Work was from an online school and blaming me for what many individuals have experienced with online schools is again, another attempt to discredit me and the issues at the KHA I brought to the forefront before any of this dominated the social media outlets.

My resume is a life picture of my work. I met all the requirements of the KHA Job Posting and Job Description and should not be made to defend my life’s work of trying to assist individuals and families to become self-sufficient so the cycle of poverty can be broken thus ending generational Public Housing Program and Housing Choice Voucher Program Participation.

I moved to Kenner to embrace its diversity and effect positive change so the Clientele that we service can feel connected to the valued external stakeholders and begin building that bridge of HOPE so everyone can feel of value in our society.

Respectfully,
Marc A. Starling