

Durham Housing Authority (DHA) Board Chair Dan Hudgins announced today that Anthony Scott will be appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer of the organization during today's Board meeting at 5:30pm in the Housing Authority Offices at 330 E. Main Street in Durham. With the Board's approval, Scott's first day in the office will be on June 20, 2016.

Scott comes to DHA with a wealth of experience, Hudgins said, most recently serving as the Deputy Executive Director of the Housing Authority of Baltimore City since May, 2011, where he was responsible for oversight and direction for public housing operations, the housing voucher program, resident services, and capital planning. Prior to that he was Chief Executive Officer of the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority, where he not only led the agency, but also led redevelopment activities for the city. Both agencies represent the largest such agencies in Maryland and Virginia, with the Baltimore agency housing more than 25,000 residents with 750 employees, and Richmond housing more than 7,500 Richmond households and 350 employees. Scott also brings 12 years of experience in private development where he worked on creating affordable housing in southern California.

"The selection of Anthony Scott represents a great opportunity for the Durham Housing Authority," said Hudgins. "Not only does he have experience in rebuilding and rehabilitating public housing, similar to projects that Durham will be undertaking over the next few years, he also has worked within an organizational structure of city government, which should help as we develop a closer working relationship with both the City and County. He certainly understands the importance of building partnerships with not only advocacy groups and human service agencies but also with private housing developers."

"I have devoted my career to improving communities by bringing people together," Scott said. "It is truly rare to see a community willing to come together to lift its citizens in the way that Durham has shown. I look forward to joining the Durham Housing Authority and the larger Durham community to use our collective efforts to build stronger neighborhoods."

Scott was selected from a field of 42 applicants recruited nationwide by a Washington, D.C. search firm starting last January. As one of two finalists chosen following an extensive screening process, he participated in a two-day interview process last month, involving the DHA Board, City and County government officials, representatives from Duke University and community service agencies. The DHA board consists of community leaders along with a resident assisted by DHA. A public forum was held in April for public housing residents to provide input on the selection.

Hudgins acknowledged that during Scott's tenure in Baltimore, the Baltimore Housing Authority was plagued with controversial allegations regarding the actions of certain

employees who were accused of soliciting sex from female public housing residents in exchange for the completion of maintenance work. These allegations led to a lawsuit that was filed against the Baltimore Housing Authority.

Hudgins was assured through an extensive background check of Scott, including references, that Scott was not implicated in the alleged harassment and shares DHA's strong commitment to maintaining a safe environment for residents free of unlawful harassment and discrimination. "I am comfortable that Scott's experience at Baltimore places him in an even better position to implement DHA's zero-tolerance personnel policy against the sexual harassment of our residents," Hudgins added. "His actions resulted in the immediate removal of the accused from the sites and he commenced an investigation that lead to the termination of the employees involved. I'm also comfortable that his departure is not at all related to the accusations."

Scott is married with four children and two grandchildren. He earned a bachelor's degree in Architecture from Howard University in Washington D.C. While earning his Masters of Urban Planning from the University of California at Los Angeles, he received an American Institute of Certified Planners award from the American Planning Association for a class thesis project on public housing in Los Angeles as well as the Dean's award for community service.