

# Citizens Planning and Housing Association

January 11, 2010

Dear Friend of CPHA,

I ask that you join me in giving thanks to Dan Pontious, who has decided to leave CPHA as its Executive Director. Those of you who know Dan appreciate the tremendous loyalty, dedication and hard work that he brought to his six years with CPHA, both as a staff member and as Executive Director. Much of his work will leave indelible benchmarks on the history of Baltimore City. It was his leadership that led to the passage of Baltimore's 2007 "Clean Streets" eviction reform law – working with a broad coalition of citizens, 3,200 tons of people's personal belongings are no longer on display on Baltimore's streets. Also during his tenure as Executive Director, our work on the "Red Line" resulted in significant success in moving this major transportation initiative toward completion.

Leading us into the next decade will be Mel Freeman, appointed by the Board of Governors as the 12<sup>th</sup> Executive Director of CPHA, effective January 1, 2010. Mel and Dan have worked side-by-side to make the transition seamless.

As a member of the CPHA Board since 2001 and its president from 2006-2009, Mel has a successful track record in leading CPHA through several transitions and successful campaigns to benefit Baltimore's communities. Through his volunteer and professional work he has forged relationships with community leaders, legislators, government officials and policy makers, as well as public and private sector organizations. His effective leadership will help CPHA become more efficient as we seek to expand our work with neighborhood and civic leaders to take on the many challenges of this pivotal time in our country.

Please join CPHA in wishing Dan the best of success in his future work as we welcome Mel in his new role at CPHA. You can reach Mel at 410-539-1369, ext. 101 or [melf@cphabaltimore.org](mailto:melf@cphabaltimore.org).

Best regards,

Ken Montague  
*President, CPHA Board of Governors*

Below follows a letter to our members from Dan:

January 11, 2010

Dear Friend,

I am leaving my position at CPHA effective this week to spend more time with my growing children and to explore new opportunities. In making this change, I am very glad to turn over the reins to Mel Freeman, with whom I worked closely in his role as CPHA Board President and who is uniquely equipped to build CPHA in 2010 and beyond.

My past six years on staff at CPHA have been tremendously rewarding, having had the privilege of working with a variety of talented and dedicated people on issues critical to Baltimore's future.

2010 will bring new challenges and opportunities, and I look forward to continuing to support CPHA as an active citizen of Baltimore and the region. I urge you to continue and bolster your work to make CPHA the meeting ground for critical ideas and action for Baltimore. I hope our paths will cross again!

Sincerely,

Dan Pontious  
danpont@aol.com