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March 12, 2020

Via Email

Ms. Bonita Shropshire, Executive Director
South Carolina State Housing Finance and Development Authority
300-C Outlet Pointe Boulevard
Columbia, SC 29210

RE: Follow-up from the Committee meeting with the agency on February 26, 2020

Dear Director Shropshire:

The House Legislative Oversight Committee appreciates SC Housing's continued cooperation with the legislative oversight process. As follow-up from the Committee's meeting on February 26, 2020, please provide responses to the following questions from Committee members by Wednesday, March 25, 2020:

1. Do any SC Housing employees have access to emails sent to board members at the addresses posted on the agency's website? If so, has each board member given explicit permission to allow this access?
2. Do board members have unfiltered access to all emails received at their agency-issued email address?
3. Has the agency hired a chief financial officer (CFO)? If so, please provide a description of the individual's professional background as well as his or her expected date to start work at the agency.
4. Please provide the dates of all time periods since the beginning of calendar year 2018 during which the agency's CFO position has been vacant. Please also note time periods, if any, during which the position was filled on an interim basis.
5. Please describe the agency's expected timeline for completing a strategic plan, as well as any steps that have already been taken.

6. In the recent survey of SC Housing employees conducted by the Office of the State Inspector General (SIG), a sizable but substantial minority indicated a lack of belief among agency employees that agency leadership “maintains high standards of honesty and integrity,” “set[s] a positive example,” or “treats people fairly.” What is your plan to address these issues?
7. In the SIG’s recent survey of SC Housing employees, a sizable but substantial minority indicated poor morale at work. What is your plan to address this issue?
8. In its November 9, 2019, letter to this committee, the State Inspector General (SIG) indicated that it had determined current and former executive directors exercised strict control of the information flow to the SC Housing Board. The SIG recommended “[t]he SC Housing Board should determine the core functions and duties required of the internal audit role and review available models designed to ensure the internal auditor’s independence. It should then adopt an appropriate reporting structure.” The Economic Development, Transportation, and Natural Resources Subcommittee adopted a similar recommendation. What is the agency’s response to that recommendation and what, if any, plans does the agency have to implement such a response?
9. Will the SC Housing Board establish a policy regarding minimum reserves for bond debt service, operations, and emergency funds, as recommended by the SIG and the Economic Development, Transportation, and Natural Resources Subcommittee? When?
10. In its 2018-19 Agency Accountability Report, the agency reported that it had “3,335 followers on Facebook and more than 1,975 followers on Twitter”. The year prior, in its 2017-18 Agency Accountability Report, the agency reported that it had “3,000 ‘Followers’ on Facebook and more than 1,975 followers on Twitter.” Please explain how the agency’s social media efforts meaningfully improve its mission accomplishment; to the extent that these efforts do meaningfully improve its mission accomplishment, please explain why there has been a relative lack of progress in this area.

Please feel free to include any additional information you believe would be helpful to the Subcommittee. Please contact Committee staff with any questions or concerns about these requests. Thank you for your service to the people of South Carolina.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Wm Weston J Newton".

Wm. Weston J. Newton

cc: House Legislative Oversight Committee Members