

## **PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE**

Glorian D. Dorsey, *Director*

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The Public Information Office serves as the Department's liaison with the news media and public relations personnel. The Office disseminates information to the news media, plans special events to promote Departmental programs, and helps to produce Departmental publications.

## **MARYLAND HOUSING POLICY COMMISSION**

*Chairperson: Vacancy*

*Members: ten vacancies*

*Ex officio: Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate; R. Clayton Mitchell, Jr., Speaker of the House of Delegates.*

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Created in 1983, the Maryland Housing Policy Commission helps the Secretary of Housing and Community Development identify ways to increase housing supply and ownership opportunities for low and moderate income people (Chapter 668, Acts of 1983).

The Commission develops, adopts, and annually updates a State housing plan, issues a policy and needs statement, and assesses Departmental progress in implementing them. The Commission recommends to the Secretary innovative programs for building, financing, insuring, and managing housing for families, elderly citizens, and others not adequately served by the private market. It also assists the Secretary in creating a public information service to bring available housing resources to the attention of those in need.

As an advocate of the housing needs of low and moderate income people, the Commission appears before federal agencies, Congress, and the General Assembly. It also encourages and aids local government efforts to develop mutual and cooperative solutions to common housing problems.

The Commission consists of eleven members appointed by the Governor to four-year terms. The

President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Delegates, or their designees, serve as nonvoting members. The chairperson and vice-chairperson are designated by the Governor (Code 1957, Art. 41B, secs. 8-101 through 8-105).

## **DIVISION OF HOUSING FINANCE**

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The Division of Housing Finance was established in 1987 (Senate Bill no. 699). Within the Division, the Community Development Administration administers the Maryland Home Financing Program, the Maryland Housing Rehabilitation Program, the Homeowners' Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program, the Rental Housing Production Program, and the Elderly Rental Housing Program. The Division also is served by the Housing Finance Review Committee.

## **HOUSING FINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE**

*Chairperson: Vacancy*

*Public members: two vacancies*

*Department members: Vacancy, Secretary of Housing and Community Development; Gerald T. Thorpe; two vacancies.*

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The Housing Finance Review Committee was created in 1983 (Chapter 668, Acts of 1983). The Committee reviews specific loan requests or categories of loan requests, and the investment and project financing policies of the Division of Housing Finance. After review, the Committee makes its recommendations to the Secretary of Housing and Community Development.

Appointed by the Governor, the Committee consists of seven members. Three are Department employees; two are public members who serve four-year terms; one is a public member who is the chairperson of the Maryland Housing Policy Commission; and one is an employee of the executive branch of State government who is not employed by the Department (Code 1957, Art. 41B, sec. 2-202).