

POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Chair: Ellen M. Janes, Assistant Secretary for Neighborhood Revitalization

Appointed by Governor: William J. Ahtes; Leslie C. Bender, Esq.; Calvin L. Garlic; Michael S. Lofton.

Ex officio: Frank B. Coakley, Assistant Secretary for Housing Finance & Community Development; J. Rodney Little, Director, Division of Historical and Cultural Programs; Earl De Maris, Director, Division of Credit Assurance; F. William Beans, Director, Office of Customer Service.

STATE COMMISSION ON NEIGHBORHOODS

Larry Young, *Co-Chair*, 1996

Paul C. Brophy, *Co-Chair*, 1996

..... (410) 514-7262

Appointed by Governor (who names co-chairs): J. Richard Achenback; Jacquelyn D. Cornish; Sandra E. Crewe; William W. Duncan, Jr.; Floyd S. Elliott; William E. Hanna, Jr.; Rev. Philip Hundley; Pamela J. Kelly; Stephen W. Lafferty, Esq.; H. Lawrence Lyons; Jelili Ogundele; Samuel J. Parker, Jr.; Vincent

P. Quayle; James K. Rhee; Jorge L. Ribas, D.V.M.; five vacancies. *Terms expire 1996.*

Appointed by Senate President: John J. Hafer; Larry Young.

Appointed by House Speaker: Ruth M. Kirk; Shane Pendergrass.

Ex officio: vacancy, designee of Governor; James R. Gatto, designee of Secretary of Business & Economic Development; Ellen M. Janes, designee of Secretary of Housing & Community Development; C. Irving Pinder, Jr., designee of Director on Aging; Patricia Goucher, designee of Director of Planning.

FEDERAL GRANTS MANAGEMENT

(SA2106, formerly 37.01.21.06)

FY1996 appropriation \$ 1,355,800

FY1996 authorized positions 19

Ronald D. Waters, *Chief* (410) 514-7224

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Ronald D. Waters, *Manager* (410) 514-7224

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

Charles H. Smallwood, *Manager*
..... (410) 514-7229

ORIGIN & FUNCTIONS

In 1987, the Maryland legislature combined programs for low-income housing, home financing, building codes, planning and community development, and historic preservation to form the Department of Housing and Community Development (Chapter 311, Acts of 1987). The Department works to ensure available housing at all income levels, encourage strong neighborhoods and viable communities, and preserve Maryland's historical and cultural heritage. The Department funds or insures loans for purchase and construction of housing for low-income families; helps low- and moderate-income families buy or rehabilitate houses; and aids nonprofit organizations with grants or loans to house the elderly, developmentally disabled, and homeless. The Department also distributes federal rent subsidies to low-income families; oversees construction, including prefabricated buildings and mobile homes, to ensure that it meets building code standards; and offers weatherization and energy conservation aid to qualified groups and households. To revitalize commercial districts and blighted areas, plan growth and resource development, and provide housing for citizens not served by the private sector, the Department funnels federal and State funds to communities and supports community action and regional development agencies. In addition, the Department finances historic preservation, archaeology, museum services, and cultural heritage commissions. The Department administers three museum properties: Banneker-Douglass Museum, Jefferson Patterson Historical Park and Museum, and Historic St. Mary's City. Departmental programs help communities plan for the future.

Most functions now supervised by the Department originally fell outside the scope of government. Maryland communities grew initially with few restrictions and little planning, and shelter was a private responsibility. Local jurisdictions had little authority or interest in overseeing construction or development in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. How houses were built was limited by the skill of the builder, the availability of supplies, and the pocketbook of the owner. No governmental codes or regulations labeled structures substandard, although many must have been. In rare cases, the legislature sheltered the poor in private homes or later in county almshouses, but generally, poor persons, like everyone else, housed themselves and their families as best they could. Local building codes began tentatively in some localities in the eighteenth century; planning and zoning did not emerge as governmental responsibilities until the twentieth century. Zoning legislation, now a major tool for community development and planning, was passed for Baltimore City in 1927 and for the counties in 1933.

New Deal legislation of the 1930s initiated federal involvement in housing. In its housing programs, Maryland followed the federal lead and relied upon federal funding. The Housing Authorities Law of 1937 sought to remove the menace of insanitary and unsafe housing and to alleviate unemployment (Chapter 517, Acts of 1937). By this act, municipal governments could set up housing authorities to receive federal grants or loans for public housing projects. As with most subsequent laws for low-income housing or community renewal, the act followed on the heels of federal legislation which provided funds for its purposes.