



For More Information:

Jan Branham
jbranham@nrha.us
(757) 314-1682

For Immediate Release

NRHA Chief Executive to Step-Down December 31

Norfolk, VA (May 30, 2014) – Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority (NRHA) Chief Executive Officer Shurl Montgomery announced to the Board of Commissioners his retirement effective December 31, 2014 after a decade of producing strong local impact and achieving national recognition for the organization.

“Even in the midst of the Great Recession and historically deep funding cuts from U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), NRHA generated \$121.5 million annually for the city’s economy, in addition to 1,148 jobs, with an average wage of \$46,434,” concluded Professors Roy Pearson and Scott Swan of the William and Mary Mason School of Business who performed a two-year comprehensive economic impact analysis of NRHA activities.



Along with its neighborhood revitalization efforts, NRHA enables over 7,000 Norfolk households to reside in better quality housing than they otherwise could afford. These households included a total of 17,600 people, or 7.25% of Norfolk’s total population.

Currently, NRHA is rated by HUD as a “High Performer” for public housing and housing choice voucher programs, the top rankings possible.

NRHA recently received an A+ credit rating from Standard and Poor’s, which cited its fiscal strength and strong management. This is among the highest ratings attained by any redevelopment and housing authority nationwide.

The National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) has recognized NRHA with dozens of industry best practice awards during Montgomery’s tenure.

Before joining NRHA in 2004, Montgomery served the City of Norfolk for 27 years in key leadership positions, including Assistant City Manager.

At various times he was directly responsible for Civic Facilities, Planning and Codes Administration, Economic Development, Police, Fire and Rescue, Public Works, Libraries as well as Parks and Recreation.

The most satisfying part of my job is “trying to assist people in having a better life,” said Montgomery. “NRHA, guided by an accomplished Board and served by talented employees, has performed beyond any reasonable expectations considering the steep fiscal challenges,” he said.

“Over the last few years we have done substantial repositioning and as NRHA approaches its 75th anniversary I am confident that the organization is poised to ‘set the example’ for another 75 years,” Montgomery said.

“Shurl has served Norfolk for more than 30 years as a department director, assistant city manager, and then, CEO of the housing authority. His performance, unflappable demeanor and proven ability to get the job done earned him the full trust and confidence of the Council. He will be missed,” said Mayor Paul Fraim.

“We are grateful for Shurl’s leadership over the past decade. He is a steady and unassuming leader who has been a huge force in making Norfolk the great city it has become. His trust and credibility among employees, citizens and decision makers is unmatched. Shurl has big shoes for us to fill and we are thankful he has given us some time to fill them.” said NRHA Board Chair Nash Bilisoly.

Montgomery has been a major influence on Broad Creek and East Beach, the two largest redevelopment projects in Norfolk’s history, as well as Old Dominion University (ODU) Village, Church Street revitalization and many other redevelopment projects in neighborhoods citywide. As Managing Director, Montgomery helped grow Hampton Roads Ventures, an NRHA subsidiary, into one of the most successful community development financing entities in the country.

Montgomery serves on the Salvation Army Advisory Board and boards of ODU Community Development Corporation and Healthy Neighborhood Enterprises CDC as well as Greater Norfolk Corporation Executive Committee, Past President and current board member of Norfolk Festevents, Past President Norfolk Municipal Employees Credit Union and member of Norfolk State University Business and Economic Development Council and Kiwanis Club.

Montgomery and wife Nancy reside in Norfolk. They have two sons and a daughter.

About NRHA

Founded in 1940, NRHA is a national leader in community revitalization and fostering sustainable mixed-income communities. As the largest redevelopment and housing authority in Virginia, NRHA is an important driver of the local economy. www.nrha.us

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