July 31, 2026

The Honorable Cynthia I. Newbille
President, Richmond City Council
Richmond City Hall
900 East Broad Street, Suite 300
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear President Newbille:

Please accept this letter as my resignation from the Board of Commissioners of the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority, effective immediately.

I want to thank City Council for the opportunity to serve the city and the residents of RRHA. I accepted this appointment because I believed I could contribute to an organization whose mission is essential to Richmond's future. Throughout my service, I have tried to approach every matter independently, responsibly, and with the interests of residents at the center of my decisions.

My decision to resign is rooted primarily in a loss of confidence in the leadership and governance of the Authority.

Over the past year, I have raised concerns regarding transparency, accountability, communication with commissioners, responsiveness to residents, and the overall direction of the Authority. I have attempted to address these matters both privately and during public meetings. Unfortunately, I have seen little evidence that there is interest from a majority of the Commissioners to correct the leadership failures underlying these concerns.

I joined the RRHA Board to help strengthen the Authority and improve outcomes for residents. I do not want my continued service to be interpreted as acceptance of a leadership culture that, in my judgment, has undermined transparency, weakened Board oversight, and diminished public confidence

I respectfully encourage City Council to examine the Authority's leadership and governance practices and to take the steps necessary to restore accountability, confidence, and trust. I also encourage the appointment of a successor who will insist upon transparency, independent oversight, and meaningful respect for the role of the Board.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve. I remain committed to supporting policies and partnerships that expand affordable housing, protect residents, and strengthen Richmond's communities.

Respectfully,

Barrett Hardiman