

**Amended Bylaws for the Resident Advisory Board for the
Boston Housing Authority**

(incorporating amendments through February 2014)

Introduction

These Bylaws were approved by the Resident Advisory Board (RAB) for the Boston Housing Authority (BHA) in the spring of 2003, and were revised in March, 2005, April, 2006, September, 2006, February, 2007, March 2008, March-May 2009, March, 2010, September 2011, and February 2014 and are to be used in conjunction with the current operation of the RAB, the election of the RAB for the term running from June, 2006 forward, and for the future operation of the RAB following such elections. These Bylaws are subject to future revision as may be approved by RAB and/or as may be required to comply with federal requirements for the RAB.

I. Purpose, Composition, and Selection of RAB

- A. *Purpose:* The Boston Housing Authority shall establish a Resident Advisory Board, the membership of which shall adequately reflect and represent the residents assisted by the Boston Housing Authority. The RAB shall assist and make recommendations regarding the development of the public housing agency plan for the BHA. The BHA shall consider the recommendations of the RAB in preparing the final public housing agency plan, and shall include, in the public housing agency plan submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, a copy of the recommendations and a description of the manner in which the recommendations were addressed.
- B. *RAB Representatives:* The RAB shall consist of thirty (30) members, selected in equal numbers from three constituencies at the BHA.
 - i. Ten (10) shall be residents from BHA's elderly/disabled public housing developments and be elected by representatives of local tenant organizations (LTO's) for BHA's elderly/disabled public housing developments.
 - ii. Ten (10) shall be residents from BHA's family public housing developments and be elected by representatives of LTO's for BHA's family public housing developments.
 - iii. Ten (10) shall be participants in BHA's Section 8 voucher (including enhanced voucher and project-based voucher), homeownership, or moderate rehabilitation program and be

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elected by BHA Section 8 participants who participate in the election.

Hereinafter the twenty (20) RAB members elected by the LTO's of the BHA's family and elderly/disabled developments shall be referred to as the "Public Housing Representatives" and the ten (10) RAB members elected by BHA Section 8 participants shall be referred to as the "Section 8 Representatives". In addition, the cumulative thirty (30) RAB members elected by the LTO's of the BHA's family and elderly/disabled developments and BHA Section 8 participants shall be referred to as the "RAB Representatives" or "RAB Members".

Hereinafter BHA family public housing residents, BHA elderly/disabled residents, and BHA Section 8 participants shall be referred to as the "three (3) constituencies".

- C. *RAB Alternates*: There shall be no more than thirty (30) Alternates ("Alternates") selected from three constituencies at the BHA detailed in Section I.B. There may be less than thirty (30) Alternates, but no more than ten (10) Alternates shall be residents from any of one of the three constituencies, i.e., (1) BHA's elderly/disabled public housing developments, (2) BHA's family public housing developments, (3) BHA's Section 8 voucher (including enhanced voucher), homeownership, or moderate rehabilitation program).
- D. *Non-Discrimination*: It is the policy of the RAB to comply fully with existing Federal and State laws protecting the individual rights of applicants, residents, or staff and any laws subsequently enacted. The RAB shall not operate in any manner that will discriminate against an individual on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, religion, age, handicap, disability, national origin, ethnicity, familial status, or marital status.
- E. *Term of the RAB; Extension; Elections*: Starting in 2015, each elected RAB shall have a three-year term. Each RAB Representative and Alternate shall serve until the completion of the next RAB election, unless the Representative or Alternate otherwise withdraws or is removed from the RAB in accordance with these Bylaws. Elections for the RAB shall occur prior to June 1 of the year in which the RAB's term expires, except as provided in Section I.F below. There shall be two separate election meetings—one for Public Housing

Representatives, and one for Section 8 Representatives. Those eligible public housing residents authorized by their Development's Local Tenant Organization, and Section 8 participants in attendance at the respective election meetings shall determine how the elections shall be conducted, subject to the general rules set forth below. Election meetings shall be scheduled in an accessible location and at a time intended to maximize participation.

i. Election of Public Housing Representatives and Alternates:

a. *Supervision of Elections; Notice of Election Meeting to LTOs and to Residents:* For the election of Public Housing Representatives and Alternates, the elections shall be supervised by representatives of Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS), Mass. Senior Action Council (MSAC), and the Committee for Boston Public Housing (CBPH), and/or another agency selected by the RAB and the BHA for that purpose, with assistance from the BHA. Notice shall be sent by such agency or agencies, to all BHA LTOs not less than 30 days in advance of the election date, and shall be directed to all LTO Board members listed with the BHA. The notice shall advise each LTO to send up to three representatives to the election, with authority to nominate and elect representatives to the RAB. Each LTO's representatives will be required to present documentation at the election that they have been duly authorized by their LTO to act on its behalf in the election. Only authorized LTO representatives may nominate and elect residents to serve as RAB Members. There shall be no election by proxy (i.e., by LTO representatives not in attendance at the meeting). The LTO representatives must be present at the election to vote. In addition, BHA shall send written notice to all public housing residents of the election meeting not less than 30 days in advance of the election meeting.

b. *Nomination and Election:* Family LTO representatives shall nominate family residents to serve as RAB Representatives/Alternates. Elderly/Disabled LTO representatives shall nominate elderly/disabled residents to serve as RAB Representatives/Alternates. Attachment #1 lists the LTOs/Developments considered eligible to vote in

the Family and Elderly/Disabled elections and how their votes will be counted. Each nominee will be given the opportunity to present why they should be elected as a RAB Member. The nominees need not be LTO members nor do they have to be nominated by the LTO representatives from their development. The names of the nominees shall be read and each authorized LTO representative will be given the opportunity to vote for that nominee for their respective constituencies (family LTO representatives vote for family RAB representatives; elderly/disabled LTO representatives vote for elderly/disabled RAB Representatives. The LTO representatives can only cast 10 ballots each, and there can be no more than three LTO representatives whose votes are counted from each development. Each LTO representative can only cast one ballot per individual. The number of votes received for each nominee should be written down and visible for all at the meeting to see. The ten (10) people with the most votes that reside in family public housing shall become RAB Representatives for the family developments. The ten (10) people with the most votes that reside in elderly/disabled public housing shall become RAB Representatives for the elderly/disabled developments.

c. *Breaking Ties*: If there are two or more RAB nominees with an equal number of votes those nominees with an equal number of votes shall decide between them which position each will fill. In the event this is not possible, those eligible to participate in the election shall decide this by majority vote.

d. *Selection of Alternates*: The nominees who receive the 11th through 20th most votes that live in family public housing shall become RAB Alternates for the family developments. The nominees who receive the 11th through 20th most votes that live in elderly/disabled public housing shall become RAB Alternates for the elderly/disabled developments. The order of most votes received from 11th through 20th will determine their position among alternates. The nominee who finishes the voting with the 11th most votes will become the First Alternate, 12th most will become Second Alternate and so on to the nominee with 20th most votes will become the Tenth

Alternate. The order of alternates described above shall only be used to determine which alternate should become a RAB Representative if a RAB Representative should for any reason be unable to complete his/her term or is removed from the RAB Board. No Alternate shall be eligible to become a RAB Representative unless s/he meets the minimum attendance expectations set forth in these Bylaws. If Alternates who would move up as RAB Representatives meet the minimum attendance expectations and are otherwise tied in the order in which they would move up, and a choice needs to be made (i.e., there are fewer slots available than the number of tied Alternates), then the slots will first be assigned to such Alternates who are from BHA public housing developments that are not already represented on the RAB Board. In other instances of a tie, the Board will make a decision on how to break such a tie.

e. Limit on Number of Representatives From a Development:

No individual public housing development may have more than one Representative elected to the RAB, unless there are less than ten nominees, in which case a second individual may be elected to the RAB from a development so that the ten slots are filled. However, an individual may serve as an Alternate if there is already an elected RAB Representative elected from that same development. To carry out this provision, the individual from a development with the most votes will be the RAB representative, and if there is a second individual from the development with less votes, that person will automatically be an Alternate, even if that individual was among those receiving the 2nd through 10th most votes, and the top vote getter among the persons who would otherwise be Alternates will be the Representative. For cases where second individuals were nominated because there was initially an insufficient number of nominees to fill the 10 slots, and more than one development submitted a second nominee, Representative and Alternate slots will be assigned in order of vote total to those second nominees after all of the Representative slots for developments with one nominee have been filled.

f. Requirement of Attendance at Election Meeting To Be Eligible for Election to the RAB: It is not possible to elect Representatives or Alternates to the RAB who are not present at the election meeting.

ii. Election of Section 8 Representatives/Alternates

a. Supervision of Election; Notice of Election Meeting: For the election of the Section 8 Representatives, the elections shall be supervised by BHA in conjunction with GBLS, or another agency selected by the RAB and the BHA for that purpose. Written notice shall be sent by the BHA to all BHA Section 8 participants not less than thirty (30) days in advance of the election meeting. The notice will advise Section 8 participants that those attending the election meeting are to nominate interested Section 8 participants and elect ten (10) Section 8 Representatives. There shall be no voting by proxy (i.e., by persons not in attendance at the election meeting). BHA shall verify that the persons participating in the election are in fact BHA Section 8 participants.

b. Nomination and Election: Section 8 participants shall nominate Section 8 participants to serve as RAB Representatives/Alternates. Each nominee will be given the opportunity to present why they should be elected as a RAB Member. The names of the nominees shall be read and each BHA administered Section 8 participant will be given the opportunity to vote for that nominee. The number of votes received for each nominee should be written down and visible for all at the meeting to see. The ten (10) people with the most votes shall become RAB Representatives for the Section 8 program.

c. Breaking Ties: If there are two or more RAB nominees with an equal number of votes those nominees with an equal number of votes shall decide between them which position each will fill. In the event this is not possible, those eligible to participate in the election shall decide this by majority vote.

d. *Selection of Alternates:* The nominees who receive the 11th through 20th most votes shall become RAB Alternates for the BHA Section 8 participants. The order of most votes received from 11th through 20th will determine their position among Alternates. The nominee who finishes the voting with the 11th most votes will become the First Alternate, 12th most will become Second Alternate and so on to the nominee with 20th most votes will become the Tenth Alternate. The order of Alternates described above shall only be used to determine which Alternate should become a RAB Representative if a RAB Representative should for any reason be unable to complete his/her term or is removed from the RAB Board. No Alternate shall be eligible to become a RAB Representative unless s/he meets the minimum attendance expectations set forth in these Bylaws.

e. *Limit on Number of Representatives From a Development:* No individual multi-family housing development with Section 8 assistance under the enhanced voucher, the project-based voucher program, home-ownership program, or the Section 8 moderate rehabilitation program shall have more than one regular Representative elected to the RAB, unless there are less than ten nominees, in which case a second individual may be elected to the RAB from a multi-family development so that the ten slots are filled. However, an individual may serve as an alternate if there is already an elected Representative elected from that same development. To carry out this provision, the individual from a development with the most votes will be the RAB representative, and if there is a second individual from the development with less votes, that individual will automatically be an Alternate, even if that individual was among those receiving the 2nd through 10th most votes, and the top vote getter among the persons who would otherwise be an Alternate will be a Representative. For cases where second individuals were nominated because there was initially an insufficient number of nominees to fill the 10 slots, and more than one development submitted a second nominee, Representative and Alternate slots will be assigned in order of vote total to those second nominees after all of

the Representative slots for persons not from multi-family housing developments with Section 8 assistance.

f. *Requirement of Attendance at Election Meeting To Be Eligible for Election to the RAB* It is not possible to elect Representatives or Alternates to the RAB who are not present at the election meeting.

iii. Duties of Alternates

Those participating in the election meeting are free to elect up to ten Alternates from each of the three constituencies if they choose as detailed in Section 1.C of these Bylaws. Alternates are encouraged to attend RAB meetings and to participate in RAB discussions and committees. Alternates shall also be free to vote if the full number of regular RAB representatives from their constituency (i.e., family public housing, elderly/disabled public housing, or Section 8 participant) are not in attendance at the RAB meeting. In the event that more alternates are in attendance than the number of temporary vacancies from a particular constituency, the regular RAB Representatives from that constituency shall either elect which alternates may vote, or may allow alternates to vote up to a maximum of ten (10) for any of the three (3) constituencies. At no time shall there be more than ten (10) votes for a given constituency.

iv. General Selection Principles; Eligibility Criteria for RAB

Elected RAB Representatives and voting Alternates, if any, serve as Representatives for all BHA public housing and Section 8 programs, and not just their own development/program. In addition, those participating in the election meetings shall recognize that the RAB Representatives should be from a broad cross-section, representing the diversity of groups in public and assisted housing (race, ethnicity, gender, disability, etc.) and spread geographically. In addition, in order to be elected to the RAB or serve as an Alternate, and to be eligible to continue to serve on the RAB, each Representative and Alternate must meet the following eligibility criteria:

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- a. Be willing to participate in training and orientation as a RAB Representative/Alternate.
- b. Agree to abide by these Bylaws.
- c. Be willing to attend regular RAB meetings. The RAB ordinarily meets on a monthly basis, but from time to time may meet more frequently. Representatives who fail to attend three or more RAB meetings without notice to the RAB co-chairs or BHA liaison with “good cause” for non-attendance may be removed from the RAB by a majority vote of the RAB provided there is a quorum as described in Section IV., and may be ineligible for future election to the RAB. Alternates are not required to attend all RAB meetings. However, beginning in April, 2008, Alternates will be expected to attend at least four RAB meetings a year. If an Alternate does not meet this minimum attendance requirement, then the Alternate shall not be eligible to move up to a Representative slot in the case of a vacancy.
- d. Be willing to work collaboratively with other RAB Representatives and Alternates and the BHA in reviewing and commenting on BHA policies, procedures, and decisions that are part of the Public Housing Agency (PHA) Plan and any amendments to the Plan.
- e. Be willing to be an active participant in a RAB committee.
- f. Be either a Boston Housing Authority public housing resident or BHA Section 8 participant.
- g. Not serve as a RAB Representative or Alternate while employed by the BHA or by a private management company managing housing for the BHA, due to the potential for conflict. In addition, any potential for conflict of interest due to a personal or business relationship with other individuals employed by the BHA or private companies managing housing for the BHA should be disclosed during the election process.
- h. Be willing to share contact information including name, address, telephone number and (as applicable) e-mail address

with all RAB Representatives and Alternates, as well as the BHA liaison and contact persons at GBLS, CBPH, and MSAC. This contact information shall not be utilized for any purposes other than official RAB business.

Except as provided below, Public Housing Representatives who move out of BHA public housing shall no longer be eligible to participate in the RAB. RAB Section 8 Representatives who have temporarily relocated and/or are no longer under a Section 8 HAP contract may still be eligible to remain on the RAB so long as they are still eligible to participate in the BHA Section 8 program and subsequently lease up a unit with a BHA administered subsidy within 6 months. RAB Representatives who have transferred from one program to another but are still under BHA auspices (for example, a public housing tenant transferring to a Section 8 unit, or vice-versa) remain eligible and shall continue to represent the constituency for which they were elected until the end of the term.

Elected RAB Representatives and Alternates, if any, who become employed by the BHA or by a private management company managing housing for the BHA, shall immediately no longer be eligible to participate in the RAB and their vacancy shall be filled in accordance with Section V of these Bylaws.

v. Voting

Elected RAB Representatives shall have the right to participate in the RAB and its committees. Voting rights will be vested in all elected RAB Representatives. Voting rights can only be exercised by RAB Representatives present at a RAB meeting, or by an Alternate(s) in the instance where there are less than ten (10) RAB Representatives for one of the three constituencies and then only up to a maximum of ten (10); there shall be no voting by proxy. Each RAB Representative (or voting Alternate) shall have one vote.

F. Election Delay

There may be circumstances in which RAB elections are delayed due to the need for additional time to secure an agency to supervise the elections and/or provide sufficient outreach and notices to LTOs, BHA public

housing residents, and BHA Section 8 participants. Any such delay must be authorized by a majority RAB vote which shall indicate the deadline for completion of elections. In no event shall elections be delayed to an extent that would cause the first and second meetings of the newly elected RAB (as provided in Section II) being delayed beyond September 30.

II. First Meeting After Election; Selection of Officers for the RAB

A first meeting of the RAB shall be scheduled shortly after the election, based on a schedule established jointly by the BHA and the prior RAB. At this meeting, a schedule shall be established for future RAB meetings and for orientation/training of RAB Representatives and Alternates, and a separate orientation/training for Officers and Alternate Officers, with participation by BHA, GBLS, MSAC, and CBPH, and other agencies as needed. Officers and Alternate Officers shall only be eligible to serve if they are willing to participate and have participated in the separate orientation/training for Officers and Alternate Officers. Orientation/training sessions shall be scheduled flexibly so as to accommodate the needs of RAB members, are open to any Representatives or Alternates who wish to participate, and may be set for more than one date or time if necessary. The following officers shall also be elected by the RAB Representatives:

A. Co-Chairs

Three co-chairs shall be elected by the RAB Representatives of each of the constituencies, one from the elderly/disabled public housing RAB Representatives, one from the family public housing RAB Representatives, and one from the Section 8 Representatives. These co-chairs will rotate in chairing each of the RAB meetings. If in a particular month the designated co-chair cannot chair, s/he shall contact the other co-chairs or the alternate co-chair to make arrangements, and shall make up coverage in the future.

B. Treasurer; Co-Treasurer

A treasurer shall be elected who will be responsible for any financial affairs managed by the RAB. The treasurer shall consult regularly with the BHA liaison regarding RAB-related expenditures, and the treasurer from time to time shall report on these matters to the RAB as a whole.

C. Secretary/Clerk

A secretary/clerk shall be elected who will be responsible for keeping track of RAB records, information, and correspondence. The secretary/clerk shall consult regularly with the BHA liaison regarding RAB attendance and other matters, and the secretary/clerk from time to time shall report on these matters to the RAB as a whole.

D. Alternate Officers

Alternate Officers will be chosen for each of the Officer positions—i.e., alternate Co-Chairs for each of the constituencies, an alternate Treasurer, and an alternate Secretary/Clerk. The Alternate Co-Chairs shall be elected by the RAB Representatives of each of the constituencies (and Alternates where Alternates are permitted to vote), and the other Alternate Officers by all RAB Representatives (and Alternates where Alternates are permitted to vote). The Alternate Officers will assist the Officers in the carrying out of their respective duties, and can chair or carry out other duties in the absence of the related Officer.

E. Term of Office; Filling Vacancies

As of June, 2008, there will be a new election for Officers and Alternate Officers, and the term of office shall be for one year, with new elections being held every July thereafter or, if the RAB elections are delayed as provided in Section I.F, at the second meeting of the newly elected RAB. There is no restriction on a person who is already serving as an Officer or Alternate Officer from running for re-election. Should a person elected as an Officer or Alternate Officer find that s/he is unable to continue to serve as an officer, notice of this shall be given to the BHA Liaison and the RAB, and the RAB shall promptly elect a new officer for the balance of the term. RAB Representatives who step down from or are disqualified from the RAB (see Section V, below) shall automatically lose any officer position. However, individuals who step down or are disqualified as officers shall continue to be eligible to serve on the RAB so long as they were not disqualified from the RAB and meet the eligibility criteria established for the RAB.

III. Committees

There shall be such Standing (permanent) and Ad Hoc (short term) Committees for the RAB as the RAB shall choose to establish for the term of the RAB; the RAB shall establish the Committees' duties and names, and the term for any Ad Hoc Committee. Each Standing Committee shall have at least three (3) members, and each Ad Hoc Committee shall have at least two (2) members; similar quorum requirements shall apply. Alternates shall be free to participate in Committees. . No person shall serve on more than one Standing Committee, or on more than one Ad Hoc Committee at a time (during the same term), but he or she may serve on one Ad Hoc Committee in addition to serving on a Standing Committee.

A list of the Committees, their chairs, their membership, their meeting times, and their term (where applicable) shall be maintained by the RAB Secretary/Co-Secretary and furnished to all RAB members, the BHA Liaison, and GBLS. Committee meetings are open to attendance by any RAB Representative or Alternate, but only Committee members may vote on a matter being considered by the Committee. RAB members who are not already on a Committee may, however, ask to join a Committee. The Committees may ask non-RAB members to attend their meetings and to assist them, but such non-RAB members shall not have any voting power.

Each Committee shall choose a chair and establish a schedule of meeting times and locations which shall be provided to all RAB members. Committee meetings shall be scheduled in a manner so as not to conflict with the work of other committees or the RAB as a whole. All Committee meetings shall be held in accessible locations, and at least 4 days' minimum notice shall be provided of a Committee meeting in order to permit members to arrange necessary transportation. The majority of the Committee members, or the RAB as a whole, may vote at any time to replace or appoint a new chair. Committees shall report regularly back to the RAB as a whole on their work, and may make recommendations to the RAB as to action to be taken. To the extent possible, Committees will keep minutes or notes from their meetings, and such minutes/notes shall be provided to the RAB as a whole. BHA shall provide a tape recorder and tapes to Committees to aid them in keeping records of their meetings.

IV. Meetings; Quorum; Conflict of Interest

A. *Attendance at RAB Meetings:* All RAB meetings and all committee meetings shall be open to attendance by all BHA public housing residents and Section 8 participants, and to staff of BHA, GBLS, CBPH, and MSAC unless the RAB determines otherwise consistent with applicable law. It is anticipated

that from time to time the RAB may wish to establish a “RAB only” meeting (or portion of a meeting) excluding BHA staff so that it may discuss positions related to the PHA Plan or for other RAB-related business; the RAB shall decide whether certain non-RAB members may attend such meetings to aid the RAB in its work. Such meetings shall, in any event, be open to Alternates.

B. Notice for RAB Meetings; Agendas; Minutes: Written notice of all regular RAB meetings will be given by BHA to all RAB Representatives and Alternates, as well as to GBLS, CBPH, and MSAC, at least seven (7) days in advance. Regular RAB meetings shall be at the BHA’s main office at 52 Chauncy Street, at the BHA’s Amory Street development, or at such other BHA site which is accessible, of sufficient size and convenient location, as the RAB may designate. The designated co-chair for each meeting and the BHA liaison shall consult in advance of issuing this notice as to the matters to be placed on the agenda; co-chairs shall also consult with each other regarding the agenda in order that there is continuity between meetings. Any RAB Representative or Alternate can request that the co-chair or liaison place an item on the agenda for discussion. Additional items may be added to the agenda for a meeting with the consent of the RAB. Minutes of RAB meetings shall be prepared by the BHA Liaison and provided to all RAB Representatives and Alternates, as well as to GBLS, CBPH, and MSAC; the RAB shall be free to revise such minutes.

C. Special Meetings: The RAB may, by a vote at a regular RAB meeting, arrange for special meetings outside of the schedule worked out with BHA, or at locations other than at the BHA. However, the RAB must insure that advance written notice of at least seven (7) days is provided for such meetings to all RAB Representatives and Alternates, as well as to GBLS, CBPH, and MSAC, and that transportation arrangements are offered for RAB Representatives/Alternates to such special meetings. BHA will cooperate with any efforts to establish special meetings, including coordinating notice and transportation arrangements (i.e. taxi vouchers).

D. Contact Information: The BHA will supply all RAB Representatives and Alternates (as well as GBLS, CBPH, and MSAC) with a list of the names, addresses, telephone numbers and (as applicable) e-mail addresses for all RAB Representatives and Alternates, as well as the BHA liaison and contact persons at GBLS, CBPH, and MSAC. This list shall not be utilized for any purposes other than official RAB business.

E. Manner In Which RAB Meetings Will Be Run: Meetings shall be

conducted in an orderly fashion, with persons recognized by the designated co-chair, and with procedural or other disputes resolved in a manner consistent with Roberts' Rules of Order (i.e., motions, seconds, friendly amendments, points of order, motions to table, motions to call the question, etc.) If the designated co-chair wishes to speak substantively to a particular matter, s/he should surrender the chair to another co-chair, alternate co-chair, or individual selected by the RAB during such period. There shall be no personal attacks on RAB Representatives or Alternates, BHA staff, or those collaborating with the RAB; emotion is permitted (and expected, given the issues that may arise, and the diversity of viewpoints), but all individuals shall be treated with respect. The co-chair shall have the right to have persons who are disruptive to the orderly conduct of business removed from the meeting. At each meeting, the designated co-chair shall appoint a sergeant-at-arms whose duties shall include enforcement of time limits on speakers and agenda items and assisting the co-chair in helping the meeting run in an orderly fashion. Such sergeant at arms may approach any individual or individuals considered by the designated co-chair to causing disruption in the meeting and ask to speak with them privately, outside of the meeting, to see if concerns can be met in a manner consistent with meeting decorum and order, and without requiring formal action to remove the individual(s). Any such individuals who are approached should cooperate with the sergeant at arms. It is understood that rulings by the co-chair as to the removal of an individual can, as with other rulings by the co-chair, be appealed to the RAB as a whole, and that the RAB's ultimate vote shall be binding.

F. Quorum for RAB Meetings and Committee Meetings: A quorum for all RAB meetings shall be nine (9) RAB Representatives (including any voting Alternates); however, solely up through the June 2006 RAB election, quorum shall be six (6) RAB representatives. If a quorum is not present for a RAB meeting, the RAB is not able to take any binding votes. A quorum for a committee meeting shall be one third of a committee's members. Unless a committee quorum is present no committee decisions can be made. There shall be no voting by proxy at RAB meetings or RAB committee meetings.

G. Avoidance of Conflict of Interest: No RAB Representative or voting Alternate shall participate in the consideration of or vote on any matter in which the Representative/Alternate has (or in which any member of the Representative's/Alternate's immediate family has) a particular financial or other beneficial interest, including without limitation any contract or employment relationship. (Immediate Family is defined as mother, father,

father-in-law, mother-in-law, spouse, children, brother, sister, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, or other relative who is a regular member of the RAB Member's or Alternate's household.) Any potential conflict shall be disclosed in advance to all RAB Representatives and Alternates participating in the meeting; in the event of any disagreement over whether such a conflict exists, a finding and binding determination shall be made by the majority of the disinterested RAB Representatives and voting Alternates present and voting at the meeting. It shall not be a conflict of interest, however, for RAB Representatives/Alternates to express views or vote on matters of general BHA policy that may be beneficial to public housing residents or Section 8 participants.

V. Absence from RAB Meetings; Removal of RAB Representatives, Alternates, or Officers; Vacancies on the RAB; Filling Vacancies

- A. *Notice Where a RAB Representative Cannot Attend a RAB Meeting:* Any RAB Representative who cannot attend a regular RAB meeting shall notify the RAB co-chairs or Secretary or BHA liaison if he or she cannot attend, and indicate the "good cause" for such non-attendance. If it is not possible to give such notice in advance, such notice shall be given as soon as possible. The co-chairs and/or the BHA liaison shall notify the RAB Secretary of any such contact, and the RAB Secretary shall keep regular track of attendance and any such contact and notify the RAB and the BHA periodically of attendance.
- B. *Leaves of Absence:* A RAB Representative may request a leave of absence if, for reasons beyond his/her control, he or she cannot attend RAB meetings for a period of time, but wishes to remain on the RAB. Such a request shall be conveyed to the Secretary of the RAB and/or the BHA liaison. Leaves of absence shall be limited to an initial period of three months. The RAB secretary shall contact the individual at the end of the three-month period to find out the individual's intent (to return to the RAB, to leave the RAB, or to seek an extension on the leave). The total leave of absence period for any one individual cannot exceed a total of six months in any RAB term.
- C. *Quarterly Review of Attendance:* On at least a quarterly basis, the RAB shall review the attendance of RAB Representatives and Alternates and the status of any leaves of absence. BHA shall provide regular revised updated RAB Representative/Alternative lists

to the RAB as membership changes due to departure or removal of RAB Representatives or Alternates.

- D. Removal of RAB Representatives For Failure to Attend RAB Meetings Without Good Cause:* If a RAB Representative has failed to attend three or more consecutive regular RAB meetings without stating “good cause” for non-attendance, and without being out on leave of absence as provided in these Bylaws, the RAB Secretary shall notify the RAB as a whole and the BHA liaison of this. The RAB shall arrange to give written notice to all such individuals that they are being removed from the RAB. Should any such individual believe that this action is not warranted (i.e., there was good cause for nonattendance or failure to notify the RAB), s/he may contact the RAB and petition to be restored to the RAB. The RAB shall decide what action to take on such a petition.
- E. Removal of RAB Representatives, Officers, or Alternates for Other Good Cause:* A RAB Representative, Officer, or Alternate may be removed for just cause by a majority vote of all Representatives (and Alternates entitled to vote) present at a RAB meeting that has a quorum. Just cause shall include, but not be limited to, failure to carry out the duties of the RAB Representative, Officer, or Alternate set out in these Bylaws, fraud upon the organization, or taking action harmful to BHA tenants, BHA staff or those collaborating with the RAB. The RAB may, in its discretion, determine that it is appropriate to remove a RAB Representative from an Officer position, but not to remove the Representative from continued participation in the RAB. Prior to the membership vote, the affected individual shall be entitled to seven (7) days’ notice of the planned action and the grounds for removal. The affected individual may, at least two (2) days prior to the membership meeting, request in writing to the co-chairs that he/she be granted an informal hearing on the charges. (If the affected member is a Co-chair, the request shall be directed to the Secretary as well as to any other Co-chairs.) If such a request is received, the vote on removal shall be deferred, and the RAB shall convene a temporary committee to investigate the matter and grant the affected member an informal hearing. (The RAB may request involvement by third parties such as BHA, CBPH, MSAC, or GBLS with such a committee if it deems this appropriate.) The temporary committee shall report its findings back to the next general membership meeting that shall take appropriate action on the temporary committee’s recommendations. The

temporary committee shall not contain any members who are personally interested or biased as to the controversy involved, and shall be empowered to investigate and take testimony from anyone whose testimony is relevant in the matter.

F. *Resignation; Removal Due to No Longer Being Eligible to Serve on the RAB:* Any individual who finds that s/he is no longer able to serve as a RAB Representative or Alternate for any reason, or that s/he is no longer eligible to serve on the RAB because he or she no longer resides in a BHA public housing or Section 8 unit administered by the BHA, or has a conflict of interest, shall notify the RAB Secretary and the BHA liaison of this, and shall be removed from the RAB. Should it come to the RAB's or the BHA liaison's attention that an individual should have been disqualified under this section but did not notify the RAB, such individual shall be removed from the RAB once this is known, with written notice provided to such individual of this action. Should any such individual believe that this action is not warranted (i.e., disqualification is not required), he or she may contact the RAB and petition to be restored to the RAB. The RAB shall decide what action to take on such a petition.

G. *Filling Vacancies on the RAB:* If the number of remaining participants for any of the three RAB constituencies is less than ten (10) (including any active Alternates who can replace Representatives who have left the RAB), then the RAB shall meet and decide whether:

1. To continue operating as a RAB with a reduced number for the remainder of its term; or
2. To hold a special election for the affected constituency, with notice to either LTOs or Section 8 participants (as applicable) to fill the vacancies (and any alternate slots determined appropriate) for the remainder of the term. Such special elections shall be carried out consistent with the provisions of Section I of these Bylaws.

Special elections shall be required, however, for all vacant positions not otherwise filled by Alternates if the number of active RAB members drops to a level that would make it likely that there would be no quorum.

In June 2006 there were an insufficient number of individuals elected to serve as Section 8 representatives and alternates on the RAB. In addition, there was not a full slate of public housing alternates elected to serve on the RAB. In addition, there have been and/or are likely to be vacancies during the course of the RAB's term in both representative and alternate slots. The RAB may appoint individuals who are BHA Section 8 participants and/or BHA public housing residents, have expressed an interest in serving as representatives or alternates, and meet the eligibility criteria set forth in Section I.E.iv of these bylaws, to fill vacant representative or alternate slots. Such persons may serve on an interim basis until such time as there are special or regular elections, as provided in these Bylaws and as directed by the RAB. In filling any position, the RAB shall make clear whether the persons appointed are representatives or alternates and, if alternates, what their ordering is on the alternate list for the purpose of any later filing of vacancies in representative slots.

No Representative or Alternate who (1) has been removed for just cause under Section V.E of these Bylaws, or (2) has resigned, shall be eligible for the remainder of the term of each RAB as described in Section I.E of these Bylaws. This bar shall not apply to any person who was removed for just cause as an Officer but was not removed as a Representative or Alternate.

VI. Amendment of Bylaws

A. Process for Amendment: These Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the RAB Representatives (and Alternates entitled to vote); provided, however, there must be a quorum at such meeting and provided further, however, that written notice must be given to all RAB Representatives and Alternates, at least one week in advance, stating specifically the proposal to amend these Bylaws.

B. Amendment if Federal Law Changes: Should federal law requirements for Resident Advisory Boards be changed such that these Bylaws are inconsistent with federal law, BHA shall notify the RAB of such changes and indicate what revisions to the Bylaws are required to bring the Bylaws into accordance with federal law.

Bylaws As Revised
Boston Housing Authority Resident Advisory Board
Revisions Approved through February 2014

C. Revision if City-Wide Residents Organization Established: Should BHA public housing residents establish a city-wide residents organization in the future which would have the right to appoint RAB public housing representatives in accordance with federal law, these Bylaws shall be amended to reflect the change in which public housing tenant representatives are chosen.