



SYRACUSE HOUSING AUTHORITY

Building Neighborhoods. Growing Dreams.

Board Commissioner's Board Meeting Minutes

Date: July 02, 2026

Start Time: 12:00PM

Quorum: 12:00PM

Mission: To provide quality, safe, and affordable housing; to create opportunities for SHA residents' self-sufficiency and economic independence, and to empower individual potential in an environment where people want to live, work, and build communities.

Commissioner Attendees: Chair Ryan Benz, Commissioner Milton Martinez, Commissioner Rickey Brown, Commissioner Quwanka Ellerby, Commissioner Doug Reicher, Commissioner Patricia McBride, Commissioner Monica Williams

Other: Counsel Brad Hunt of Mackenzie Hughes, Executive Director William Simmons, SHA Staff Members

Motion made to go into Executive Session to Obtain Advice of Counsel at 12:02PM: Motion made by Ryan Benz, 2nd by Monica Brown, motion carried.

Motion made to exit Executive Session and return to Regular Session at 12:39PM: Motion made by ???, 2nd by ???, motion carried.

Public Comments:

Multiple employees and attendees expressed appreciation for Executive Director Bill Simmons' years of service and leadership at the Syracuse Housing Authority. Speakers highlighted his commitment to residents, mentorship of staff, support for employee development, and significant contributions to public and affordable housing initiatives. Several speakers also expressed confidence in Jalyn Clifford's leadership and their support for her appointment to Acting Executive Director.

Several employees also expressed disappointment with the circumstances surrounding Mr. Simmons' departure and conveyed frustration with the Board's decision. Comments included statements that Mr. Simmons had built a strong organizational culture, that employees felt supported under his leadership, and that they believed the Authority should have retained him. Speakers encouraged the Board to continue building upon the foundation established during his tenure.

Jalyn Clifford thanked Mr. Simmons for his mentorship and acknowledged the dedication of SHA employees. She also advised attendees that Mr. Simmons had agreed to remain available as a consultant through August 28, 2026, to assist with the leadership transition.



Motion made to approve the Mutual Separation Agreement between the Syracuse Housing Authority and William Simmons to authorize the Chairman or Vice Chairman to sign that agreement on behalf of the Authority, and to authorize the Chairman and Vice Chairman and the Authority's staff and counsel to take all steps necessary to implement the agreement at 12:42PM: Motion made by Ryan Benz, 2nd by Monica Brown. Commissioners Benz, Brown, Reicher, and Williams voted in favor; Commissioners McBride, Ellerby, and Martinez voted against; the motion passed.

Motion to appoint Deputy Executive Director Jalyn Clifford as Acting Executive Director effective July 11, 2026, and to authorize the Chairman and Vice Chairman and the Authority's counsel to negotiate an agreement with Ms. Clifford, and to authorize the Chairman or Vice Chairman to sign that agreement, and to authorize the Chairman and Vice Chairman and the Authority's staff and counsel to take all steps necessary to implement the agreement at 12:44PM: Motion made by Ryan Benz, 2nd by Monica Brown. The motion passed unanimously.

Regular meeting concluded at 1:02PM: Motion by Douglas Reicher, 2nd by Quwanka Ellerby, motion carried.

Vice Chair

ATTESTS:

Secretary