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For the First Time in More Than a Decade the Municipal Housing Authority is Working to Partner with Market Rate Building Owners to Expand Affordable Housing - Front row, from left, MHACY Board Chairman James Landy; MHACY President and CEO Wilson Kimball; Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano and MHACY COO Carlos Laboy. Back row, from left, Councilman John Rubbo; Councilwoman Shanae Williams; Councilwoman Tasha Diazand Symra Brandon, Director of Community Affairs for NYS Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins

Yonkers Municipal Housing Authority Today Announces RFPs to Promote Affordable Housing

By VICKY HOCHMAN

YONKERS, NY (June 18, 2020) For the first time in more than a decade, the Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers (MHACY) is seeking to partner with market rate building owners to expand the city's base of affordable housing.

At a press conference at Yonkers City Hall, MHACY announced that

is has released a request for proposals seeking building owners to participate in the Section 8 Housing program. Section 8 provides vouchers through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development that subsidize rental units in market rate buildings for income-qualifying tenants.

The program would also be a major plus for building owners and developers who need to meet the requirements of the city's affordable housing law.

"This is a win-win situation for tenants, building owners and the City of Yonkers," said MHACY Board Chairman James Landy.

"This is the first time in over a decade that we are seeking RFPs for these vouchers. It will not only expand our base of affordable housing but will give developers incentive to create more market rate housing in our city."

"During this challenging economic time, while many families across our city are facing housing challenges during the COVID-19 crisis, this is yet another way we can leverage more quality, affordable housing for Yonkers' working families, young people starting out and seniors who want to age in place," said Mayor Spano.

"Thanks to leadership of MHACY for working in tandem with our efforts."

Wilson Kimball, MHACY's President and CEO, said the initiative was part of a larger push to expand affordable housing opportunities including redevelopment of Cottage Place Gardens, new construction of senior housing at the former Longfellow School and partnering with private developers in new and creative ways.

MHACY is also poised to complete a \$300 million, three-year plan to renovate more than 1,700 units

of public housing in Yonkers under HUD's Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program with 1,450 units already completed and 450 under construction.

The program allowed the City and MHACY to leverage its properties and use tax credits to attract private investors. It is the most extensive public housing renovation in the nation using public/private financing.

"Housing is key to the vitality of any city. In addition to all the new market rate housing that is going up, we have renovated our public housing stock and are now making more

affordable housing available through the use of Section 8 vouchers in partnership with building owners," said Kimball.

"This three-prong approach ensures that we provide a full-spectrum of housing, and renew our commitment to provide safe, affordable housing for working families."

For more information on submitting RFPs for Section 8 vouchers visit MHACY's website at www.mhacy.org.

ABOUT MHACY

The Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers (MHACY)

is the largest provider of affordable housing in the City of Yonkers and the second largest public housing authority in New York State.

MHACY has an unparalleled commitment to redeveloping, managing and administering its housing stock to provide low-income families, the elderly and disabled individuals with access to good, sustainable housing that improves the quality of the residents' lives, fosters their economic success, and allows them to serve as integral members of communities in which they live.