

For Immediate Release

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LACONIA - The Board of Commissioners of the Laconia Housing and Redevelopment Authority wishes to announce that Catherine Naczas has submitted her resignation as Executive Director effective September 21, 2007. After twenty years as Executive Director of the Authority, Ms. Naczas is leaving to accept a position with the Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston where she will continue to use her considerable talents and experience to support the creation of affordable housing throughout Northern New England.

Kathy joined the Authority in 1987 after an early career in housing management with Berkshire Management, a private company, and with the New Hampshire Housing Finance Agency. Under her leadership the Laconia Housing and Redevelopment Authority has grown from its small beginnings of one Public Housing Authority-owned elderly housing facility of ninety-nine units (Sunrise Towers) and the responsibility for a Housing and Urban Development Section 8 housing assistance certificate program of 167 certificates to its present size of 718 owned and leased affordable housing units. Through her efforts, the Authority has been able to purchase Stafford House and Blueberry Place in Laconia, Orchard Hill in Belmont and Northfield Village in Northfield. These purchases were made to ensure that those units of elderly and family housing would remain as affordable housing instead of being converted to market-rate units. Her most recent project was the rehabilitation of the long vacant Scott & Williams Knitting Machinery factory in Normandin Square into sixty units of affordable rental housing and new homes for the Lakes Region Day Care, the Wellness Center and the Health First Family Care Center.

Perhaps the most significant achievement during her tenure as Executive Director has been the growth of the Authority's Supportive Services Program. As our resident population continued to grow older and live longer it became apparent that in order to delay the necessity for our elderly to be placed in full nursing care facilities it would be advisable and very cost effective for the Authority to provide an expanded array of services that would allow our tenants to continue in their apartments in familiar surroundings and among familiar neighbors. Kathy and her staff were able to secure the funding grants to build a program of supportive services that is unique in New Hampshire and even in the United States, and serves a model for other Housing Authorities and has received several national awards. The result of this effort has been the saving of large financial commitments that would be required of families and New Hampshire's elderly service programs should these folks have been required to enter nursing homes.

Understandably, the Board of Commissioners and the staff of the Laconia Housing and Redevelopment Authority are sorry to lose Kathy, but to look on it philosophically we have been very fortunate to have had her loyal and dedicated services for as long as we have. We wish her well in her new endeavor.

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