Guiding Principles for Redevelopment and Capital Investments at MPHA
Approved by the MPHA Board of Commissioners on May 24, 2017

MPHA will engage in a public, portfolio-wide planning process to assess the needs and mission-oriented opportunities at all properties owned by MPHA. This process has two primary goals:

- Ensure the long-term physical and financial viability of MPHA’s existing public housing stock; and
- Increase the livability and overall marketability of units, through high-quality design and construction.

MPHA's goal is to provide housing that meets the current and projected needs of low-income households in Minneapolis, and preserves—and where possible increases—affordable housing options in all Minneapolis neighborhoods.

MPHA commits to protect those MPHA residents who are particularly vulnerable, including the elderly, persons with disabilities, persons with income below 30 percent of the area median income, and immigrant families (as permitted by law).

MPHA will encourage active and meaningful resident and community participation throughout the planning and implementation process, and seek collaborations and partnerships with the City of Minneapolis, other governmental agencies, and housing advocates where appropriate to enhance and improve MPHA's affordable housing portfolio.

MPHA intends that residents participate and contribute to the planning and design discussions. If MPHA has a redevelopment opportunity that includes strategies not previously anticipated by the agency, MPHA commits to bring these approaches to the residents as soon as possible for an open review and discussion of the options.

MPHA will make real estate investment decisions for each property and MPHA's city-wide housing stock that reflect MPHA's mission statement:

The mission of Minneapolis Public Housing Authority (MPHA) is to promote and deliver quality, well managed homes to a diverse, low income population and, with partners, contribute to the well-being of the individuals, families and community we serve.

MPHA intends to preserve all existing public housing units. If the eventual redevelopment effort results in the loss of units, MPHA commits to develop replacement units elsewhere in the city. To the extent feasible, MPHA will develop replacement units prior to the demolition of existing units. MPHA will also look to create phased demolition and reconstruction plans so that these activities are closely timed, with on-site and replacement units provided in coordinated fashion.
MPHA commits to preserving the high-rise properties and to limit demolition at these sites to work necessary to reconfigure units or common spaces in accordance with an approved design, expand community spaces, add units, or provide for additional service options and amenities at the site.

MPHA commits to provide adaptable and accessible design features so that residents might have the opportunity to stay in units longer as they age in place.

MPHA’s planning efforts shall include development of a comprehensive relocation plan with the residents of each affected property. The relocation plan will describe options and choices for relocation, provide a complete description of relocation assistance provided by MPHA (such as packing and unpacking, type and amount of payments provided to residents impacted by the move, and other features or services as negotiated between the residents and MPHA. Relocation benefits apply to both the move out and the return move.

MPHA intends that the redevelopment efforts result in no permanent displacement of any current MPHA resident. Relocation plans negotiated with the residents will include a right-of-return for families displaced by redevelopment work.

MPHA commits to keeping existing resident participation and support programs: resident councils, the city-wide resident organization (MHRC), Project Lookout, joint diversity initiatives, active living initiatives, the high-rise laundry project, vending machines and other income options that support resident programs, resident council funding, and services provided by others at the buildings (such as the Volunteers of America).

Post redevelopment, MPHA commits to retain management and maintenance responsibilities for all the buildings. This commitment is subject to specialized redevelopment, such as assisted living or supportive housing, where a third party may manage. If the redevelopment of a site demands any deviation from MPHA management and maintenance, this will be vetted with the resident organizations as part of the redevelopment planning process.

Should MPHA undertake redevelopment of a property with a private for-profit or nonprofit developer partner, MPHA will require that the developer/partner contribute to MPHA's mission including, where feasible, the provision of resident services, job, or educational opportunities. The partnership must result in a development agreement that provides permanently affordable housing and a return on investment that clearly benefits the MPHA and its residents.