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Houston Housing Authority President & CEO to Retire

Houston — After a long and distinguished career in public service, Ernie Etuk, President & CEO of the Houston Housing Authority, has announced his retirement. He served the Housing Authority for almost 30 years, joining the Agency as a staff member and serving in several management positions before being named President & CEO in 1999.

“I have been fortunate to work with some of the most dedicated groups of individuals at the Houston Housing Authority over the years,” Etuk said. “Their hard work and passion for service has made it possible to lead this dynamic organization.”

A specially called meeting of the Houston Housing Authority’s Board of Commissioners will be held at 9 a.m., Tuesday, May 4, to consider the appointment of an Interim President and Chief Executive Officer.

The board will immediately begin a nationwide search for a new President & CEO. The search will be conducted “within the agency and throughout the nation to find the most knowledgeable, capable leader for this vitally important agency” said David Minberg, chair of Houston Housing Authority Board of Commissioners.

“HHA is serving more families than ever before, providing quality, affordable housing and services to more than 60,000 Houstonians. Mr. Etuk has brought a practical business approach to the operations of the Agency, as well as a long-term vision to the organization. The board has enjoyed working with him and will miss his leadership. We wish him well in his future endeavors,” Minberg said.

“Today, more than ever, our communities are forcefully tested by the pressures of rampant unemployment, declining financial resources and struggling neighborhoods,” Etuk said. “In spite of these challenges, we worked hard to transform blighted developments into communities of choice and to improve the quality of life for our residents by aggressively promoting economic self-sufficiency.”

Etuk has been responsible for the day-to-day operations of the HHA, including administration and operations, strategic business planning, government and community relations,

and financial management, since he was named to the position in December 1999. Under his leadership, the HHA has developed more than 2,000 affordable housing units. In the face of limited federal resources, the HHA has aggressively pursued public/private partnerships utilizing tax-credit and tax-exempt bonds to raise equity for the ongoing construction of affordable housing units. *(See attached "HHA Achievement Scorecard" for more background information on the Agency's achievements under the leadership of Ernie Etuk.)*

Etuk currently serves on the boards of the Houston Apartment Association and the National Equity Fund, a syndicator of affordable housing tax credits. He also is an advisory board member to Zion's Community Investment Corp. He is a former board member of the Fourth Ward Redevelopment Authority and the Fourth Ward Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone, and is a founding member of the Board of Directors of the Construction Owners Association of America.

The Houston Housing Authority provides affordable homes to more than 60,000 people throughout Houston. The agency and its affiliates own and operate 25 housing communities with more than 6,500 units for families, elderly and other residents. More information about HHA can be found at www.housingforhouston.com.

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