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NEW COMMISSIONERS TO FILL OPEN SEATS ON HOUSTON HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

HOUSTON—Mayor Annise Parker has appointed two new commissioners with broad experience in the Houston community to serve on the Houston Housing Authority Board of Commissioners.

Assata-Nicole Richards and Nicola Fuentes Toubia were appointed by Mayor Parker to serve two-year terms.

“I am confident that the addition of these highly talented, diverse appointees will bring new perspectives to the board,” said Mayor Parker.

Toubia is an attorney and leads Fuentes Toubia, PLLC, focusing on the legal needs of non-profit organizations. Richards is the Director of the Young Mothers Residential Program for Houston's Project Row Houses in the historic Third Ward. Both commissioners are native Houstonians.

“I’m excited to join the board so I can help Houston residents have safe and affordable housing. It is a good time to leverage private funds with public ones to make the housing authority a leader in the area with innovative programs that get residents involved,” said Toubia.

After working with large firms across the country, Toubia started her own law firm in Houston to better serve the needs of the non-profit community. Toubia is a graduate of Texas A&M University and has a J.D. from the University of Texas School of Law and an LL.M. in tax from the University of Houston Law Center.

Richards holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from Pennsylvania State University and is a graduate of the University of Houston. After serving as a faculty member at University of Pittsburgh, she has returned to Houston to create the Sankofa Research Institute for the development of innovative approaches to study and solve social problems.

“I’m very honored that the mayor has given me the opportunity to be involved in the city’s business,” said Richards. “The Houston Housing Authority is one of the most important things the city does. It provides not only housing but a community.”

The Housing Authority is governed by a Board of Commissioners that sets policy and provides leadership to enable the agency to serve thousands of families, elderly and other individuals in need.

“Mayor Parker has appointed two accomplished commissioners who have shown deep commitment to serving those in need,” said David Minberg, chair of the Board of Commissioners. “Their insights and perspective will be invaluable as HHA addresses the challenges of the next decade.”

The Houston Housing Authority provides affordable homes and services to more than 55,000 people throughout Houston. The agency and its affiliates own and operate 25 housing communities with about 5,500 units for families, elderly and other residents. More information about HHA can be found at www.housingforhouston.com.

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