

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND  
NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA  
on behalf of  
THE ALEXANDRIA REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY

Office of Housing  
City of Alexandria  
421 King Street, Suite 200  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
Telephone: (703) 746-4990

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS AND PERSONS:

The purpose of this notice is to satisfy the two separate related actions identified in the notice title above. The City of Alexandria gives notice that the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority (ARHA) will undertake redevelopment at the James Bland project, a public housing site, which consists of thirty-four buildings.

On or about June 16, 2009, the City of Alexandria will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of funds and a certification under Section 24 (a) of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937, to undertake the project known as James Bland Redevelopment (James Bland and James Bland Addition), in Alexandria, VA.

I. FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

In accordance with Section 58.43 of the Environmental Review procedures the City of Alexandria gives notice that:

A. Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority proposes to undertake the following project:

The disposition of 194 public housing units at James Bland Apartments. James Bland project calls all current buildings to be demolished and to be replaced with 134 ARHA units and 245 market-rate units, for a total of 379 units. The boundaries of 28 of the 34 existing buildings are North Patrick Street to the north, First Street on the east, North Columbus Street to the south and Madison Street to the west. The other 6 existing buildings are bounded by North Alfred Street to the north, Madison Street to the east, North Columbus Street to the south and Wythe Street to the west. In preparing the Environmental Review under Part 58, local jurisdictions must look at the disposition and any known demolition or rehabilitation work, which may occur after disposition of the public housing units.

In accordance with 24 CFR Part 58, it has been determined that such a request for release of funds and certification will not constitute an action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and, accordingly, the City of Alexandria had decided not to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (PL 91-190).

The reasons for our decision not to prepare such Statement are as follows: the project is neither of significant size, scale or mass to exceed the threshold criteria established for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement, nor will the project have a significant impact on the human environment under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (PL 91-190).

- B. The Environmental Review Record (ERR) for this project may be examined between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., at the following office:

Office of Housing  
421 King Street, Suite 200  
Alexandria, VA 22314

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON FINDINGS:** All interested agencies, groups, and persons disagreeing with this decision are invited to submit written comments for consideration to the Office of Housing, City of Alexandria at 421 King Street, Suite 200, Alexandria, VA 22314. Such written comments should be received at the above address on or before June 15, 2009. All such comments so received will be considered, and neither the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority nor the City of Alexandria will not request the release of funds or take administrative action on the proposed project prior to the date specified in the preceding sentence.

- C. The City finds that a release of funds and certification by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for this project would be appropriate.
- D. No further environmental review of the project is proposed to be conducted prior to the request for release of funds and certification.

## II. INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS AND CERTIFICATION

In accordance with 24 CFR 58.70, the City of Alexandria hereby gives notice that:

- A. On or about June 16, 2009, it will submit a request for release of funds and certification to HUD for the James Bland redevelopment project as described in the Finding of No Significant Impact above.
- B. The City of Alexandria is certifying to HUD that James K. Hartmann, in his capacity as City Manager, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to environmental reviews, decision making, and action; and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The legal effect of the certification is that upon its approval, the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority may proceed with the disposition, and HUD will have satisfied its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.
- C. HUD will accept an objection to its approval of the release of funds and acceptance of the certification for a period of 15 days following its receipt of the request only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) that the certification was not, in fact, executed by the Chief Executive Officer or other officer of the applicant approved by HUD; or (b) that the applicant's environmental review record for the project indicates omission of a required decision, finding or step applicable to the project in the environmental review process, or (c) another Federal agency, acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504, has submitted a written

finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedure (24 CFR Part 58), and may be addressed to:

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
Office of Public Housing  
820 1<sup>st</sup> Street, N.E., 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20002

Objections to the Release of Funds and Certification on bases other than those stated above will not be considered by HUD. All objections received by July 1, 2009 or within 15 days after HUD's receipt of our request (whichever is later), will be considered by HUD. We recommend that potential objectors contact HUD at (202) 275-9200 to verify the actual date of the last day in the objection period for the above cited project.

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James K. Hartmann, City Manager  
City of Alexandria  
P.O. Box 178  
Alexandria, VA 22313