News Release

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Austin Housing Authority Chairman and Former Public Housing Resident Receives Highest National Affordable Housing Honor

Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA) Chairman Carl Richie has been inducted into the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials’ (NAHRO’s) most elite class of affordable and assisted housing professionals, the NAHRO Fellows. Richie was officially inducted into the NAHRO Fellows Program at the recent NAHRO National Conference and Exhibition in Baltimore.

A former resident of public housing, Richie is only the 21st inductee to the NAHRO Fellows Program. As a dedicated public servant, much of Richie’s career has focused on developing and protecting programs and services for Austin’s most vulnerable. Richie also provides strategic counseling to housing authorities and mentoring to public housing commissioners. Professionally, Richie represents some of the nation’s leading companies on public policy issues before the Texas Legislature through his legal practice.

“Carl has been a leader and visionary in the housing industry for two decades,” said HACA President and CEO Michael Gerber. “He has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of public housing residents in Austin and across the nation through safe housing coupled with opportunities in education and job-skills training.”

Richie was the two-time recipient of the Texas NAHRO Commissioner of the Year Award, Southwest NAHRO Regional Council Public Service Award as well as the NAHRO Elizabeth B. Wells Memorial Award which recognizes deserving commissioners for excellence in advocacy for housing and community development programs. Richie is currently serving as parliamentarian for the NAHRO Board of Governors.

“Established in 2008 by the NAHRO Board of Governors, the NAHRO Fellows Program honors accomplished housing and community development practitioners for their years of service to the most vulnerable in their communities,” said Preston Prince, CME, president of NAHRO. “As Fellows, members become mentors to association colleagues, serve as jurors and uphold the code of professional conduct and ethical standards.”

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Richie has served as chairman of HACA’s Board of Commissioners since 2013. He was initially appointed to the board in 1997 by former Austin Mayor Kirk Watson. Within two years of his appointment, he helped turn HACA from a troubled agency to a high-performing agency.

Richie helped rewrite the industry’s handbook for public housing board members, “The Commissioner’s Handbook on Public Housing.” He also has chaired a NAHRO standing committee. In addition, Richie earned his NAHRO Commissioner Certification from NAHRO.

NAHRO is a membership organization comprised of 23,000 housing and community development agencies and professionals throughout the United States whose mission is to create affordable housing and safe, viable communities that enhance the quality of life for all Americans, especially those of low- and moderate-income. Established in 1933, NAHRO’s membership administers more than 3 million housing units for 7.6 million people.

HACA is a High-Performing Housing Authority that assists more than 18,000 Austinites, HACA owns and operates nearly 1,900 units of conventional public housing in 18 developments throughout Austin. HACA also manages the Housing Choice Voucher/Section 8 Program that provides rental vouchers for more than 5,000 units of housing in Austin's private rental market.

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