

June 9, 2010

TO: WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

FROM: Vivian Bryant, Esq., President/CEO, Orlando Housing Authority

RE: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) News Reports Misrepresentation of the Facts

The recent television news report and newspaper article regarding the Orlando Housing Authority's implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds misrepresented my comments. WDBO is a local radio news station in Orlando, FL. WDBO News Reporter, Drew Petrimouix, interviewed me Monday, June 7, 2010 at 3:30 p.m. regarding the Government Accountability Office audit that was conducted in March 2010. Regarding the Orlando Housing Authority, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) audit states the following:

“... at Orlando Housing Authority, (we) performed limited testing of internal controls over certain financial transactions and their compliance with requirements of the Recovery Act Capital Fund formula grant. We did not independently determine whether the goods/services paid for were received and met various requirements, such as Buy America....”

The Reporter, Mr. Petrimouix stated that he was contacted by his Washington, DC counterpart; he (Petrimouix) was asked to find out why the Government Accountability Office (GAO) had not tested to insure that the goods/services received complied with the Buy America requirements. My response was that I could not answer that question; GAO needed to answer that question.

Mr. Petrimouix also asked me to comment on a report that the Vero Beach Housing Authority had to return \$11 million of Recovery Act funds because they used foreign-made materials. I told him that I was not aware of the article and I would not comment on the issue. In fact, the City of Vero Beach had to repay money, not the Vero Beach Housing Authority. I had no knowledge of the transaction and I did not comment on it.

Mr. Petrimouix left the Orlando Housing Authority office at approximately 4:30 p.m. Within 20 minutes, I received a phone call from Channel 9 Television News Reporter, Scott MacFarlane. Mr. MacFarlane stated that he had some follow up questions from my interview with Mr. Petrimouix. I explained to him that the Orlando Housing Authority received \$3.2 million of Recovery Act funding. Approximately, \$2.2 million went to closeout financing for the completed 2002 HOPE VI Carver Park redevelopment. The federal regulations allowed the Recovery Act funds to be used in this way; no waiver was required from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). I also explained that the Buy America provision became a requirement in 2009 after the Carver Park HOPE VI redevelopment construction had been completed.

The last question Mr. MacFarlane asked me was as follows: “Have you ever used any foreign-made materials in any of your developments?” My response was as follows: “Yes. We probably have. We have ceramic tile in our developments. Ceramic tile is made in Spain.”

My response was truthful and did not respond to a Recovery Act question. Mr. MacFarlane reinterpreted my response so it would appear that foreign-made ceramic tile was paid for with Recovery Act funds. I can assure you that Mr. MacFarlane's television news report and newspaper article misrepresented the facts and my comments when he attributed my comments to the expenditure of 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds.