

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

While this year's annual report chronicles the activities of the Chicago Housing Authority during the 2006 fiscal year, it only tells part of the story. It accurately details the CHA's progress toward reaching its objectives as set forth in the Plan for Transformation with statistics on newly constructed buildings and rehabilitated units. It details compliance with operating procedures, and it quantifies occupancy and collections experience. What the report doesn't capture, however, is the spirit and enthusiasm dedicated to the process of implementing the Plan by a variety of stakeholders who collectively represent the fabric of the Chicago community.

The City government itself continues to enthusiastically support the Plan. The Departments of Planning, Streets and Sanitation, Economic Development, Housing and other City agencies remain steadfast in their commitment to facilitate completion of the transformation. The staffs of these agencies are responsive, thoughtful, and coordinated in their efforts to assist in the redevelopment of CHA properties and the transformation of its residents.

Chicago's business community also continues to contribute to the success of the Plan by investing in the neighborhoods that are being revitalized. They are helping to establish an economic infrastructure in these communities by opening businesses that provide jobs, goods, and services that are desperately needed by public housing residents.

Many of Chicago's most effective not-for-profit organizations, charitable foundations, and social service agencies also continue to support the CHA's efforts by helping to finance, organize, and implement a comprehensive social service system that meets residents wherever they may be on the road to self-sufficiency, and provides guidance and support they may need. Every resident has access to self-improvement programs, job training, and life-skills development programs to help them reach their goals.

The CHA is Chicago's largest landlord. As such, the Plan for Transformation will profoundly affect the beauty and vitality of the entire region as CHA properties and residents are integrated into the City's social and physical landscape and begin to seamlessly contribute to the growth and development of the community. From every corner of Chicago, under the leadership of Mayor Daley, the CHA continues to receive profound support. The stakeholders have worked together to reach this point in the Plan for Transformation and will ultimately succeed as result of this historic collaboration.

Sincerely,

Martin Nesbitt, Chairperson
Chicago Housing Authority Board of Commissioners

