



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Minneapolis Public Housing Authority (MPHA) Executive Director / Chief Executive Officer
Cora McCorvey
To Retire After Twenty-Five Years of Service

After nearly 40 years of public service including 25 years as Executive Director/CEO of the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority (MPHA), Cora McCorvey announced her plans to retire effective February 10, 2017. “My decision to retire was difficult. My sense of loss for a position and an Agency that I love and for which I continue to have deep passion is profound” McCorvey said.

During her 25 years as the Agency’s Executive Director/CEO, MPHA’s entire body of work was focused on the preservation of its housing portfolio and creating new housing opportunities for tens of thousands of the City’s most needy and vulnerable citizens.

On learning of Ms. McCorvey’s retirement plans, Mayor Betsy Hodges stated, “Time and time again over the course of her 40-year career at the City and MPHA, Cora McCorvey showed fierce dedication to public service, the mission of public housing, and especially to our residents. Her tireless efforts paid off; her strong leadership transformed MPHA from a once-troubled organization into a high-performing one, a designation the agency has retained for almost 20 years. I thank her for her vision, determination, and passion that all low-income people have a safe, healthy place to live and every equal opportunity to participate in the life of our city. We are all greater for her service.”

From her initial foray into executive public service where she provided national leadership in convincing Congress to permit Senior Designation of Public Housing developments and including but not limited to, establishing a Head Start facility in Glendale, overseeing the implementation of the historic Hollman Consent Decree which successfully deconcentrated public housing in near north Minneapolis and established some of the first public housing developments in suburban areas in the nation, creating the first public housing assisted living program in the nation, the first public housing memory care development in the nation, establishing public housing focused food shelves and senior centers and engaging activities that resulted in over 40 national awards of merit and excellence, Cora McCorvey has acquitted herself as an exemplar leader.

Under Ms. McCorvey’s leadership, MPHA has become a place where thousands of individuals and families call home. She has created one of the most diverse workforces in the City with over 50% of her staff comprised of people of color. She extended her diversity efforts such that for seven out of

the past 10 years, MPHA has been recognized by the National Association of Minority Contractors (NAMC) as 'Affiliate of the Year'. Ms. McCorvey has adopted a powerful approach to her work, she responds as if each resident was her mother, her son, her daughter.

MPHA Board Chair, F. Clayton Tyler noted "Cora McCorvey has given her staff unlimited opportunity to grow and to impact every aspect of the agency. She helped educate and guide the Board to engage in strategic planning and visioning for MPHA's future; and on a personal note, I am extremely proud that during her tenure Cora created the memory care facility which housed my father during the last days of his life."

Ms. McCorvey acknowledged her sincere gratitude for the work of her staff, "for their unwavering support, confidence, and commitment to me and to MPHA and its mission". She also expressed special appreciation to those who have served on the MPHA Board of Commissioners and who "have shared with me their wisdom and good counsel". She spoke passionately about her relationship with MPHA residents, "they have always kept me grounded and focused on my purpose in performing the work I have done. It has been a work of committed service and a high honor in responding to the needs of others in our community".

The MPHA Board has initiated a process that will identify a new Executive Director/CEO to replace Ms. McCorvey and continue the mission of MPHA.

cc: MPHA Board of Commissioners