



CITY OF KENNER

News Release

E. "BEN" ZAHN III
MAYOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aug. 18, 2017

MAYOR ZAHN REMOVES KENNER HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD; DEMANDS RESIGNATION OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Kenner, LA. – Kenner Mayor Ben Zahn announced today the complete removal of the Kenner Housing Authority Board, along with a call for the immediate resignation of Executive Director Marc Starling.

Zahn expressed extreme concern that Starling's résumé showed graduate work from a fictitious college called Belford University with no physical location, culminating with his receipt of a Master's Degree in Urban Development, as well as his departure from two previous HUD leadership posts. Starling voluntarily vacated a HUD Executive Director position in Rhode Island amid allegations of mismanagement, and was removed from a similar post in Florida by federal investigators.

An investigation of the Kenner Housing Authority was launched after the resignation of board member Connie Montgomery, who claimed violations by other members of the board, executive director and legal counsel. The mayor cited several issues that factored into this decision, including the board and Starling's cancellation of a multi-vendor contract without due cause, violations of a clear procurement policy, and the questionable credits on Starling's résumé. "Our internal investigation found numerous instances of potential ethical and procedural violations, which at the very least give an overwhelming sense of impropriety at the Kenner Housing Authority. This will not be tolerated, especially given the mission of this very important organization."

Mayor Zahn stated he is removing the board members for cause, and replacing them with new members in the very near future. In addition, Zahn says HUD advisors, along with a to-be-determined third party contractor, should be brought in to train and counsel the incoming board to ensure compliance with all protocols and regulations.

###

Download the City of Kenner's Mobile App, FREE through your device app store.

Visit us at: <http://www.kenner.la.us>



@CityofKenner



City of Kenner Government



City of Kenner App