

## **Statement to the Cook County Board**

Saul H. Klibanow

September 8, 2014

I am pleased to have been nominated to serve as a member of the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of Cook County and I appreciate this opportunity to present my qualifications for the position and my interests in serving on the board.

For over a half a century I have been actively and passionately involved in the field of affordable housing and community development. I strongly believe that providing quality, affordable housing as part of a viable, nurturing community environment is important to the well-being of individuals as well as to the overall health of society. I believe that both government and the private sector need to play active roles in making this happen.

My credentials to hold this position comes first from my education and subsequent practice of architecture, but more importantly from my multiple private-sector involvements in a variety of aspects in the creation and operation of affordable residential developments throughout the Chicago land area. Amongst my specific qualifications are that: I served as president of a corporation which developed and managed over forty five hundred units of primarily affordable housing, over a span of twenty five years; I founded and have continued to serve on the board of directors of a not for profit organization which has financed over one billion dollars for the acquisition and rehabilitation of affordable rental housing; I have headed a Bank owned community development initiative which worked in numerous south side communities to improve the quality of life and I have played, and remain playing, an active role in a variety of community organizations in different geographic parts of the metropolitan area to empower and improve neighborhoods.

I hope that bringing my experiences, passion and energy to the Housing Authority will help to expand and enhance its capabilities.

I thank you for your consideration of my nomination.