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COMMISSIONER/CEO

AUG 31 2011

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August 24, 2011

OFFICE OF THE STATE COMPTROLLER
THOMAS P. DINAPOLI
COMPTROLLER

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of the State of New York
The Capitol
Executive Chamber
Albany, New York 12224

Re: Response to Audit Report 2010-S-42

Dear Governor Cuomo:

Pursuant to Section 170 of the Executive Law, I write this letter in response to the Office of the State Comptroller's Report 2010-S-42, Housing Preference for Disabled Veterans, issued on May 26, 2011.

Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) agreed to undertake specific reforms to address the issues and concerns identified in the audit report. I am pleased to report that we have made the following progress to date.

State Controller's Recommendation # 1

Train Housing Management Representatives to properly review housing company compliance with applicable laws and Division guidance.

HCR's Response to Recommendation # 1

- Staff training sessions were conducted on Tenant Selection Monitoring, including specific instructions for reviewing housing company compliance with the admission preference for veterans, and all Housing Management Representatives were required to attend.
- A monthly staff meeting was devoted to the topic of Tenant Selection Monitoring and, going forward, one monthly staff meeting per year will be committed to that topic.
- Instructions for implementing the admission preference for veterans were incorporated into housing company training sessions on the Mitchell-Lama Automated Waiting List (AWL) which are conducted on an ongoing basis for small groups of housing company staff.

25 Beaver Street, New York, NY 10004

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State Controller's Recommendation # 2

Increase monitoring of housing company compliance with applicable laws and Division guidance.

HCR's Response to Recommendation # 2

- Administrative Unit staff assigned to apartment assignment review has been instructed to routinely scan waiting lists to identify veterans and to follow up with the housing companies to insure that they have been prequalified for the preference and are being processed properly. Irregularities are to be brought to the attention of the assigned Housing Management Representative for follow up.
- Housing Management Representatives have been instructed to monitor compliance with the admission preference for veterans during their annual review of tenant selection and to report on it in their field reports.
- New apartment application forms which capture the data required by the AWL, as well as the information and documentation needed to implement the admission preference for veterans, have been made available to housing companies on HCR's website.

Sincerely,



Darryl C. Towns
Commissioner/CEO

cc: Honorable Thomas P. DiNapoli, State Comptroller
Honorable Dean G. Skelos, NYS Senate Majority Leader
Honorable John L. Sampson, NYS Minority Leader
Honorable John A. DeFrancisco, NYS Senate Chair, Finance Committee
Honorable Liz Krueger, NYS Senate Ranking Minority Member of Senate
Finance Committee
Honorable Sheldon Silver, NYS Assembly Speaker
Honorable Ron Canestrari, NYS Majority Leader
Honorable Brian M. Kolb, NYS Minority Leader
Honorable Herman Farrell, Jr., NYS Assembly Chair, Way and Means Committee