



January 8, 2014

Dear Friends of the East End Transformation Effort,

Throughout 2013, the City of Richmond and the Richmond Redevelopment & Housing Authority (RRHA) met with you -- residents, business and community leaders and other stakeholders -- in East End Transformation planning sessions where we discussed a collective vision of transforming the City's East End into a place where all children, families and individuals can live, thrive and have a bright future.

As we shared with you in those meetings, our developer partner, The Community Builders Inc., submitted an application for a 2013 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant to assist us in our East End Transformation planning efforts. We recently learned, however, that our application for this competitive U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant was not selected. *But we remain undaunted!* RRHA and the City of Richmond are committed to community revitalization, and will continue to move forward in transforming our City's East End!

So, how *do* we move forward? We will continue to strengthen our partnerships with HUD, local and statewide officials, the affordable housing community and public/private entities to obtain the necessary support, resources and investment that will create the holistic and sustainable community transformation that we all envision. Also, community planning efforts that are already well underway for the East End Transformation effort will progress! As we move forward, local working groups will begin to analyze real data and shape agendas and recommendations. As you know, this is a comprehensive, community-driven revitalization process and your input and engagement is essential to the success of this transformation effort!

Our collaborative goal is to deconcentrate poverty, reduce crime, increase opportunities and transform distressed public housing in the City of Richmond. Together, we can holistically rebuild our neighborhoods and create enhanced economic, educational, health and safety outcomes for our families. We are committed to transforming communities *and* lives.

We know the great potential and unmistakable promise that exist in Richmond, VA. With your continuous support and unwavering energy, we will undoubtedly and collectively make real our vision of revitalizing the East End.

We are excited about moving forward with you along this great journey of transformation.

Thank You.

*Dwight C. Jones, Mayor, City of Richmond*

*Adrienne E. Goolsby, Chief Executive Officer, Richmond Redevelopment & Housing Authority*

*Robert Fossi, The Community Builders, Inc.*