



## **October Board Meeting**

October 6, 2025, 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

### **1. Introductions**

Marsha Oliver, Board Chair

Ms. Oliver opened the meeting by introducing herself and welcoming the attendees. She began by explaining that last Spring, the Board drew inspiration from City Council's establishment of a DOGE task force and initiated GUIDE and Strategic Services Committees to allow greater understanding and improve decision-making.

She also indicated that today's discussion items are intended to foster confidence in our work and instill trust in our leadership. As Jack Walsh aptly stated, leadership fundamentally revolves around two key elements: truth and trust. It is essential to continuously pursue the former while diligently cultivating the latter.

Members Present – Marsha Oliver, Cynthia Nixon, Lawrence Dennis, Meredith Chartrand-Frisch, Kevin Gay, Josh Martino, Carson Tranquille

### **2. Public Comments**

As there were no items on the agenda for voting during the meeting, there were no public comments made.

### **3. Board Discussion**

Marsha Oliver, Board Chair

#### **a. Promoting Greater Transparency**

##### **i. Advising Board of High Priority Items**

The Board deliberated on the necessity of creating a policy to keep members informed about high-priority issues. Following the discussion, a general agreement was reached on the importance of establishing such a policy to effectively identify and communicate these critical items to the Board. Dr. Grass noted that KHA has a template available for Board policies, which could facilitate the development of a comprehensive document of this nature. She and Reese Wilson volunteered to draft a policy for the Board's review at the next meeting.

To further promote transparency, Dr. Grass agreed to compile questions and answers from one on one meetings with Board members and share those collectively with the Board at public meetings, so everyone has access to the same information while still complying with Sunshine Laws. She will also provide the Board with the Inspector General Report from 2024, and the follow-up items provided which confirm that the recommended corrective actions were implemented.

Ms. Oliver will meet with Reese Wilson to initiate discussions on how to keep the Board updated regarding future Inspector General reports, given the associated legal implications.

##### **ii. Public Records Requests & Media Inquiries**

The Board requested clarification on the management of public records and media inquiries. Dr. Grass detailed the process, noting a recent media request for contracts and amendments between

KHA and the Boys and Girls Clubs covering the period from 2020 to 2025, which she subsequently provided to Ms. Oliver. Additionally, Dr. Grass addressed concerns regarding potential conflicts of interest among City Council members, specifically JuCoby Pittman and Kevin Carrico, whose programs receive funding from KHA.

The Board raised concerns about ensuring that smaller providers have equitable access to programming funds through the competitive bidding process. In response, Dr. Grass noted that in the recent Request for Proposals for Out of School Time (Afterschool) programs, all providers who submitted their applications on time were awarded funding. Additionally, there are currently 12 emerging providers receiving training to better equip them for future opportunities.

Additional topics of discussion included an overview of KHA 101, avoiding mission creep and addressing administrative and operational gaps.

- iii. KHA Transparency Dashboard  
This topic will be addressed at a future meeting.

#### **b. Personnel**

- i. Budget priorities  
Ms. Oliver emphasized the Board's fiduciary duty to prepare for potential budget cuts if mandated by the Mayor's Office. To create an effective plan, the Board should engage in a thorough review of operational expenses and programming priorities. Dr. Grass proposed several recommendations, including pursuing additional grants, collaborating with the Early Learning Coalition to secure additional after-school funding, and reassessing part-time funding allocations. She also outlined the necessary steps for modifying existing staff positions, which require approvals from HR, the Mayor's Budget Review Committee and Mike Weinstein.

Following a discussion, it was agreed that the Finance Director would present further details on the number of approved KHA positions at a future meeting. Other topics addressed included the need for consistent representation from City Council, scheduling meetings for the GUIDE and Strategic Services committees to refine process improvements and the CEO's evaluation, developing a State of the Kids Report, assessing the fiscal status of the Nutrition program, and planning an upcoming meeting with the board of Journey Forward.

- ii. Organizational Chart & Salaries  
This Board seeks to take an active role in operational and financial decisions related to salary determinations and position restructuring, a departure from the practices of previous Boards. Such involvement is deemed essential due to the potential financial implications these decisions may have on the overall budget.

#### **4. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by Ms. Oliver at 11:05 a.m.