Sept. 4, 2020

**MDHA Executive Director Jim Harbison Announces Resignation**

**Expected to Assist Agency in Transition until Early December**

**Nashville, Tenn.** – The Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency (MDHA) Executive Director Jim Harbison today announced his resignation following a transition period expected to extend into early December. Harbison is the fifth executive director of MDHA and has served the Agency as executive director since 2013.

Under Harbison’s leadership, MDHA facilitated an agreement with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to convert all of its public housing portfolio to Project-Based Rental Assistance (PBRA) under the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program. This move allows MDHA to hold the declaration of trust on property and gives the Agency authority to mortgage it to make much-needed capital improvements and rebuild aging structures.

Through the RAD conversion, MDHA was able to more effectively and efficiently pursue the Envision process, a plan to transform MDHA’s legacy subsidized housing properties into mixed-income, mixed-use communities. Envision Cayce became the first Envision and ensures a one-for-one replacement of existing affordable units, while adding new affordable, workforce and market-rate housing. To see the impact of Envision Cayce, one only need to look east from I-24 to witness the new, mixed-income developments that are designed to help deconcentrate poverty in Nashville.

Harbison’s leadership has also brought to fruition a unique public/private partnership resulting in Curb Victory Hall, which is a 39-unit apartment complex for Veterans experiencing homelessness. It is located in the Edgehill neighborhood next to Operation Stand Down Tennessee, which will provide wraparound services to the Veterans living there. As a Colonel of the U.S. Marine Corps with more than 30 years of service, this development and its purpose resonates strongly with Harbison.

“After having the honor of acting as the fifth executive director of MDHA through seven years of tremendous success, I have chosen to pursue opportunities that more directly align with where I am in my personal and professional life,” Harbison said. “Not only am I grateful to have served alongside an exceptional team of staff members who make a difference every day, but I also have great pride in those whom we serve and for whom we wake up to do our jobs daily – our MDHA residents.”

Harbison also thanks MDHA residents for their patience and all MDHA employees for the work they continue to do daily adhering firmly to the Agency’s mission of creating affordable housing opportunities, supporting neighborhoods, strengthening communities and helping build a greater Nashville.

“Jim Harbison has the enduring thanks of us all for his seven years of leadership at MDHA,” said MDHA Board Chair and former Mayor Bill Purcell. “In the weeks ahead, we look forward to many opportunities to celebrate and revisit all that Jim Harbison has done for the people of Nashville and the MDHA communities.”

**About the Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency**Established in 1938, MDHA provides affordable housing opportunities to more than 13,000 families primarily through Project-Based Rental Assistance and Section 8 vouchers. It also manages federally-funded community development and homeless assistance programs on behalf of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County. To foster urban growth, MDHA oversees 12 redevelopment districts that guide development through design and land-use zoning controls. Additional information about MDHA can be found on [www.nashville-mdha.org](http://www.nashville-mdha.org/), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/NashvilleMDHA), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/NashvilleMDHA), [Instagram](http://instagram.com/nashvillemdha) and [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/metropolitan-development-and-housing-agency/?viewAsMember=true).