



My name is Joan Adcock. I am an elected at-large member of the governing body for the City of Little Rock and have served in that capacity since January 1, 1991. I currently serve as liaison to the Little Rock Housing Authority which is now referred to as the Metropolitan Housing Alliance or MHA for short.

During my 35 years of service to the City of Little Rock, affordable housing is and will continue to be my passion. I feel very strongly about MHA. My commitment to MHA stems beyond my position as a member of the Board of Directors. As a child

growing up in a family with limited means, I did not have the opportunity to live in affordable housing like Madison Heights. Not only does Madison Heights address a growing affordable housing crisis in this community, but it also gives children and families hope.

When I was growing up, I did not know any doctors, lawyers, teachers, or nurses. It is difficult for a child to dream in a color that they cannot see. Madison Heights allows children to live next door to professionals and see firsthand that their economic status does not have to determine who they are or who they will be. Mrs. Clinton even put her library just a block away from Madison

Heights because they lived in Little Rock. They knew Madison Heights. They knew why Madison Heights was built.

UAMS found that they needed to have a daycare and education facility for their children because mothers and fathers were working all night and there wasn't a daycare that they felt was safe for their children. So UAMS built one of the most beautiful buildings, now a block from Madison Heights. I was on the committee and asked for 10% of the children in the schools and in the daycare, be from Madison Heights or from the neighborhoods around it. And that was what was done the day of the opening. I was there, and they told the people that we are

going to invite the children from Madison Heights and the neighborhood to apply. Can you imagine, if you were a mother of one of these children, how you would feel your child being accepted into something so wonderful? One affordable housing opportunity can impact who a child will become, and Madison Heights provides those opportunities for the low-income citizens in the City of Little Rock.

During my involvement with MHA, I have seen the accomplishment of outstanding projects such as the affordable housing units at properties like Parris Towers and Sunset Terrace. MHA has worked tirelessly to improve the living conditions for

the families at these properties. Although MHA is working hard, the board of MHA is still haunted by the mistakes made by the previous board. However, the current board's efforts are evident in their actions and the outcome.

In 2025, Madison Heights was on the brink of foreclosure. MHA and City Board meetings were flooded with residents terrified that they would lose their homes. When the City voted against funding the Madison Heights refinance, MHA worked to secure funding to prevent the property from being foreclosed. That loan is currently in the process of being closed.

Sunset Terrace was recently remodeled and is beautiful now. It's a stone's throw from Barton Coliseum, another landmark in this city. To decrease the number of vacancies, MHA allowed people with children and teenagers to reside at the Parris Towers, but it didn't work out. We have since imposed an age restriction of 55 years of age or older for residents. When I received a telephone call from one of the people with Parris Towers informing me that they were not getting enough applicants, I said "well, let's look at maybe going down on the age restrictions."

While problems arise, we must work with these facilities, with these businesses, keeping in mind our goal: serving the housing needs of the City's low-income citizens.

Given the vast steps that Dr. Jarmon and the MHA board have made towards improvements, I don't see how HUD can walk away. I don't see how HUD can force the current board to submit reports, with no papers to support it due to the mistakes of the previous board. But I'm not here today to pass blame. I'm here today as a public servant begging you for help. Dr. Jarmon and the MHA board have done some incredible work, but they need your help. They need HUD to come in and be a friend and a

partner, instead of being somebody standing at the door with a stick. The funds provided to MHA will help make improvements to the properties and decrease vacancies.

I thought and prayed a great deal about this before coming before you today and I know that it is in your heart, and your mission, to provide MHA, Madison Heights, Parris Towers, Sunset Terrace, and other low income properties with the funds needed to serve this community. As you sit here today, please remember those children and the difference affordable housing makes in their lives. Think of the parents and how proud they're going to be. Think of elderly people who rely on affordable

housing for peace and comfort as they age. Our MHA property residents have pride in themselves, and their community and they should not be forced to diminish their dignity and beg for assistance. So I am here today, as a public servant, to do that begging for them. We've done a lot of work and made many improvements. Now, I think it is up to you. We've cleaned things up; We've got people in place. But there's one thing missing, and that's you that are here today. Thank you for letting me come and tell you about my city, my people, and I invite you to be a part of making the changes that needs to come. Thank you.

