

## **Kelvin A. Jeremiah**

Kelvin A. Jeremiah was named President & CEO of the Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA) on March 14, 2013 after serving as the HUD-appointed Administrative Receiver and the Interim Executive Director since June 2012. As President & CEO, Jeremiah oversees the day-to-day operations of the 4<sup>th</sup> largest housing authority in the country. During his tenure, PHA successfully completed a Recovery Plan to address deficiencies in operations and governance, which resulted in the agency returning to local control in April 2013.

Jeremiah, a 14-year housing veteran, originally came to PHA as the agency's first-ever Director of Audit and Compliance in August 2011. In that role, he instituted policies that ended a culture of splurge and rooted out waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement.

Jeremiah's vision focuses on cutting waste, improving performance, and enhancing management practices. At PHA, he reduced the number of vehicles that employees take home, ended excessive executive perks and mortgage assistance that was unfairly administered, and ended the practice of employing provisional workers, a move that saves the agency approximately \$10 Million annually. PHA has also re-established the Human Resources Department and fully staffed the Office of General Counsel to provide better oversight of PHA legal matters and dramatically reduced outside legal expenditures.

Despite federal budget cuts, Jeremiah has committed to creating or preserving 6,000 affordable housing units in Philadelphia over a five-year period. The "6 in 5" Initiative calls for PHA to partner with public, private, nonprofit, and philanthropic organizations to meet the high demand for affordable housing. This new, collaborative policy combats blight while taking advantage of private sector efficiency.

The "6 in 5" Initiative includes the redevelopment of Blumberg Apartments and the surrounding Sharswood neighborhood in North Philadelphia. The transformation of this once-forgotten area of the city is the single most important development project PHA has undertaken in years. In November 2013, HUD awarded PHA a \$500,000 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant for the Blumberg/Sharswood community. The first phase of the project also received a 9 percent Low Income Housing Tax Credit award, the agency's first in nearly four years.

Under Jeremiah's leadership, PHA also increased its efforts to better serve residents. For the first time in 12 years, the Police Department hired new police officers to address safety and security issues raised by residents. The expansion is part of a broader safety and security plan, including a Quality of Life Task Force and an \$8.5

Million investment for closed circuit television systems and layered building access controls.

The agency is also expanding opportunities designed to promote resident self-sufficiency at Jeremiah's direction. PHA relaunched its Pre-Apprenticeship Program with a renewed focus on job placement and job retention. Residents who successfully complete the program are hired by PHA as full-time Maintenance Mechanics, Laborers, or Painters.

Prior to joining PHA, Mr. Jeremiah was the Inspector General for the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), the nation's largest public housing authority with a portfolio of 178,000 units housing over 450,000 residents and a Housing Choice Voucher Program with nearly 100,000 participating families. Before that, he served at the Springfield Housing Authority in Springfield, Massachusetts, where he was the agency's Deputy Director.

Mr. Jeremiah has also worked for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Department of Early Care and Education (formerly Office of Child Care Services), where he was the Regional Contracts Manager and Monitoring Coordinator responsible for overseeing \$135 million in childcare provider contracts. He also served as Compliance Officer at the Commission Against Discrimination in Springfield, MA, where he investigated discrimination complaints involving housing, education and public accommodation.

Mr. Jeremiah emigrated from Grenada to the United States as a teenager where he lived with his family in New York City, attending New York City Public Schools. He received a Bachelor's degree in History/Business Administration from Pace University, a Master of Arts in American Social History from Rutgers University, and a Master of Public Administration from American International College. Mr. Jeremiah is a Certified Public Purchasing Official, a Certified Public Housing Management Specialist, and is a member of Mayor Michael A. Nutter's Office of Community Empowerment and Opportunity Oversight Board.

Mr. Jeremiah is married and has three children. He and his family reside in northwest Philadelphia.