

All Corruption Must Go

Good morning, Mayor Gaskins and Councilmembers,

My name is Annette Santiago, and I am an ARHA resident.

We understand that Eric Johnson is now under investigation, but as many have or will state today, he is not the only problem. The issue is a system that is corrupt. In just 10 months, the CEO has caused immense damage. People were evicted who should never have been, and public funds were misused while staff enabled these actions. This cannot be overlooked, and tenants are calling for accountability.

It is not just about one individual — it's about a culture of negligence and disrespect that runs throughout ARHA. Tenants have faced intimidation, poor customer service, lost paperwork, and delays that affect their housing, their safety, and even their children's well-being. We have families living in units with mold, asbestos, and water damage. We have tenants who have lost their vouchers due to staff mistakes, leaving them without the ability to move to safer homes. The mental and physical toll is immense.

We demand that a thorough investigation be conducted, not only on Eric Johnson but on the executive team and every staff member who contributed to this corruption and negligence. Emails, decisions, and actions must be scrutinized. Those who failed to do their jobs, who disrespected tenants, and who perpetuated this system must be held accountable. If ARHA and the Board of Commissioners cannot enforce this accountability, the City of Alexandria must step in to ensure it is done.

The time for excuses has passed. Tenants are tired. We are no longer asking quietly for change — we are demanding it. Every tenant, every family, every child deserves to live in safe housing with dignity and respect.

We will not rest. We will not wait. We will not be ignored — until every last corrupt actor is out of ARHA and tenants are finally treated with the dignity and respect we deserve.