

**Board of Real Property Assessments and Appeals  
Minutes of the Public Meeting held on  
Friday, September 11, 2009**

Chairperson Towanda Paul-Bryant called to order the Board's fourth public meeting for 2009 on September 11, 2009 at 2:05 p.m. in Room 220 at 441 4<sup>th</sup> Street NW. The quorum consisted of Leslie Boissiere, Robert Cooper, Cliftine Jones, Henry Terrell, George S. Toll, Jr., James Walker, and Trent Williams.

Ms. Paul-Bryant opened the meeting by asking that everyone please just take a moment of silence to remember those who lost their lives on this day 8 years ago in the terrorist attacks.

Ms. Paul-Bryant welcomed the newest Board member Frank Sanders, who was the present for the public meeting. She noted that the Board has two more new members – Keith Stone and Patrick Chauvin – who were unable to attend the meeting.

Turning to the next item of business, Ms. Paul-Bryant stated that a majority of the Board members had not signed up for committee assignments. Therefore, she would circulate the committee assignment list during the meeting and ask Board members to sign up. Ms. Paul-Bryant noted that she would also circulate the list to members that are not present. Additional information with regards to committee assignments and meetings will be forthcoming during the week of September 21<sup>st</sup>.

Ms. Paul-Bryant thanked the members for their participation in the training sessions on September 2, 2009 and the Annual training which included the Office of Tax and Revenue, Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs and various petitioners on September 10, 2009. She stated that training sessions were informative, engaging and extremely useful for preparing for Tax Year 2010 season.

Ms. Paul-Bryant asked Ms. McPhatter to provide a report. As of September 11, 2009, the Board completed Tax Year 2009 season. The Board rendered a decision on 4,481 appeals.

Ms. McPhatter stated that as of September 10, 2009, the Board has received 5,270 property assessment appeals (Commercial - 1,642; Residential - 3,579 Residential; Classification – 49) for Tax Year 2010. Because petitioners have until September 30<sup>th</sup> to file an appeal with the Board for Tax Year 2010, the number of appeals for Tax Year 2010 will increase from 5, 270.

Ms. Paul-Bryant then moved to the next agenda item – voting on Fiscal Year 2009 Annual Report. She opened the floor for discussion on this item. Ms. Jones commended Ms. Paul-Bryant as Chair for searching for ways to make the Board more efficient. However, she had concerns regarding the legislative recommendation to have one-member panel decide residential assessments appeals. Ms. Jones stated with high level

scrutiny that the Board is under with regards to its decisions and how decisions impact the petitioners, it would be prudent to have at least two members rendering decisions on the appeals. Mr. Walker, Mr. Toll, Mr. Terrell, and Mr. Cooper agreed with Ms. Jones' position. Without objection, the legislative recommendation for one-member panel for residential property was removed from the annual report.

Next, Mr. Toll expressed concerns regarding the second legislative recommendation was to amend the February 1<sup>st</sup> deadline for the completion of appeals by the Board. He stated that the recommendation should provide an alternative date for the date of February 1<sup>st</sup> instead of the recommendation that the Board has same amount of time that to complete its caseload as the surrounding jurisdictions.

Ms. Paul-Bryant stated that she did not feel comfortable suggesting a date without further vetting and research as to what date would be practical. Also, she did not want to choose an arbitrary date. Ms. Boissiere agreed with Ms. Paul-Bryant. However, Mr. Cooper, Mr. Williams, and Mr. Terrell agreed that a specific date should be tied to recommendation.

After much discussion, a motion was moved and second that the legislative recommendation regarding the February 1<sup>st</sup> deadline should state the deadline should be moved to August 1<sup>st</sup>. This date is associated with the second half of the tax bill. The motion passed with only Ms. Paul-Bryant and Mr. Walker voting against it.

For the third legislative recommendation which clarified administrative meetings, Mr. Toll expressed concerns requesting the Council to amend the statute. Mr. Cooper and Mr. Terrell stated that a legislative modification was unnecessary. Without objection, that recommendation was removed from the annual report.

Mr. Toll disagreed with the fourth legislative recommendation that amends the requirement for the Board to provide detailed written statement of the decision. He stated the Board should strive to provide the best written decisions as possible. Ms. Jones also agreed with Mr. Toll. Mr. Cooper stated that a legislative modification was unnecessary. Without objection, that recommendation was removed from the annual report.

A motion to adopt the annual report as amended was moved and seconded. The motion passed without objection.

Ms. Paul-Bryant asked if the public had any comments. Mr. Lyle Blanchard, an attorney who appears before the Board, encouraged the Board to take action on the classification appeals.

With no more public comments, Ms. Paul-Bryant adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.