

PRESS RELEASE

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Release Date: January 27, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RALEIGH HOUSING AUTHORITY WELCOMES ITS NEW LEADER

RALEIGH, NC, January 2023 – After a nationwide search, the Raleigh Housing Authority (RHA) is excited to announce Ashley Lommers-Johnson as its next leader.

Ashley comes to RHA after serving over 10 years as the Executive Director of the Housing Authority of the City of Everett, Washington. Before coming to Everett, Ashley served approximately 7 years as the Associate Deputy Executive Director, Housing Operations, with the Housing Authority of Baltimore City. He also spent time with the King County and Seattle Housing Authorities earlier in his career.

“Our entire Board is thrilled to welcome Ashley as RHA’s next leader. He has the breadth and depth of knowledge to continue RHA’s long history of operational excellence, growing our housing portfolio, while strengthening resident and community relations and building community partnerships that will position RHA as the leader in delivering affordable housing opportunities for Raleigh residents.”-Arne Morris, RHA Board Chair.

In addition to his commitment to these important focus areas, Ashley believes strongly that developing a strategic plan that provides clear direction is vital for organizational health and growth. The strategic planning processes he led in Baltimore and Everett resulted in previously unimagined success.

Ashley’s strategic focus helped him become a leader in affordable housing preservation, acquisition, repositioning, and development. His efforts have been critical to preserving naturally occurring affordable housing in the communities he has served. Under his leadership, his team in Everett created a master plan to redevelop a 12-acre site into a mixed-use/mixed-income community with an eventual development cost of approximately \$750 million. Ashley was also instrumental in assisting the Everett Housing Authority in achieving an A-plus credit rating. This led to the successful sale of \$124 million in bonds to provide permanent financing for a large market-rate property as a long-term affordable mixed-income housing resource.

In addition to creating and developing the Everett Housing Authority's internal capacity to increase affordable housing, Ashley has been committed to working with nonprofit partners to support and expand their affordable housing portfolios, especially permanent supportive housing. Everett's largest nonprofit housing developer (Housing Hope) recognized Ashley as its Partner of the Year in 2021. He looks forward to forging new partnerships to confront Raleigh's growing needs for housing that is affordable for families across a broad range of incomes.

None of these achievements would have been possible without dedicated housing professionals motivated to serve those in need of high-quality affordable housing. Ashley is a strong proponent of robust training, professional development and the opportunity for meaningful work as essential ingredients of long-term personal and organizational growth. He is confident that RHA will become a magnet for talented professionals who want to make a difference.

"As much as I have valued the opportunity to lead the Everett Housing Authority, I am excited to inspire an organization with a history of operational excellence to even greater heights. I look forward to collaborating with RHA's residents and community partners to take on the challenge of expanding Raleigh's affordable housing options during this time of exceptional growth and economic opportunity."-Ashley Lommers-Johnson

Ashley grew up in Cape Town, South Africa, where he received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Cape Town. He also holds a Master of Arts Degree in Linguistics from Northwestern University and a Master of Public Affairs from the University of Washington's Evans School of Public Affairs.

Ashley's first day with RHA will be April 16.

For more information about Ashley- <https://www.linkedin.com/in/ashley-lommers-johnson-792a457a/>)

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About the Raleigh Housing Authority

Since its inception in 1938 the Raleigh Housing Authority (RHA) has become one of the largest providers of affordable housing located in Wake County. Currently, RHA owns and manages over 1,400 public housing units and administers over 3,921 Section 8 vouchers. The occupancy rate for public housing is 99+% and the Section 8 Program is 100% utilized. There is a waiting list for both programs.

RHA has a nine-member Board of Commissioners that provides oversight for the Authority. Under HUD's report card called the Public Housing Assessment System, RHA is rated as a "High Performer." Our most recent score was 97 out of 100.