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RIHousing Names James Comer as Deputy Executive Director

Comer brings nearly 25 years of experience in housing and community development

Providence, RI – RIHousing today announced that James Comer has joined the agency in the position of Deputy Executive Director. Comer has extensive experience in strategic planning, property management and affordable housing finance. He most recently served as Executive Director of Women’s Development Corporation (WDC), a Rhode Island-based community development corporation.

“James’ experience in all aspects of affordable housing and community development makes him the ideal candidate for this position,” said Carol Ventura, Executive Director of RIHousing. “Our Board of Commissioners and leadership team have many ideas on expanding RIHousing’s reach, and feel confident that James will help us achieve those goals.”

Comer previously worked in RIHousing’s Development division, prior to continuing his career in several senior-level positions during his almost 25 years in the housing industry. Prior to joining WDC, Comer served as Director of Operations at the Cambridge Housing Authority, where he was responsible for the management, maintenance and tenant selection for 2700+ units and oversaw the redevelopment of six large developments totaling \$175 million in improvements.

“I feel very fortunate to be able to come back to RIHousing as it enters an exciting time in its history,” said James Comer, newly appointed Deputy Executive Director of RIHousing. “New leadership and new opportunities mean RIHousing is uniquely positioned to build on its almost 50-year history of providing housing opportunities for Rhode Islanders.”

In his new role, Comer will have oversight of all federal programs at RIHousing, working closely with agency directors to administer, adapt and develop programs that respond to the rapidly changing nature of affordable housing and Rhode Islanders’ needs. As Deputy Executive Director, Comer will work closely with senior leadership to strategically identify and implement housing finance initiatives that help expand and diversify RIHousing’s programs.

“We’re excited to have James back on board,” noted Ventura. “His passion for and experience in building the kinds of vibrant communities where people want to live will help to grow our programs and advance our mission.”

Comer holds a Master’s in Public Affairs from the University of Massachusetts at Boston and a Bachelor’s degree from Boston College. Comer has served on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, Massachusetts Chapter, and the Housing Network of Rhode Island. A resident of Rhode Island, James lives with his wife and two children in East Greenwich.

About RIHousing

RIHousing works to ensure that all people who live in Rhode Island can afford a healthy, attractive home that meets their needs. RIHousing provides loans, grants, education and assistance to help Rhode Islanders find, rent, buy, build and keep a good home. Created by the General Assembly in 1973, RIHousing is a self-sustaining corporation and receives no state funding for operations. For more information regarding RIHousing, visit www.RIHousing.com or follow us @RIHousing on Facebook and Twitter.