



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**HOUSTON LAND BANK BOARD OF DIRECTORS SELECTS CHRISTA STONEHAM,
EXPERIENCED URBAN PLANNER, FUNDRAISER, AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZER,
AS NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND PRESIDENT**

By unanimous vote, the Houston Land Bank (HLB) Board of Directors selected Christa Stoneham to serve as HLB's new chief executive officer at the board's regular monthly meeting on December 9. Stoneham began work in her new role Tuesday.

Stoneham, division manager in Mayor Sylvester Turner's Office of Complete Communities, has been the mayor's ex officio representative on the HLB board since April 2020. Selected from more than 70 applicants drawn by a national search, Stoneham brings expertise and experience in developing, funding, and implementing community-based plans and projects.

"We're extremely excited to have Christa emerge from an impressive field of candidates," Board Chair Matt Zeis said after receiving authorization from the board to negotiate an employment agreement with Stoneham. "Christa knows Houston and its diverse neighborhoods; she understands our local government and is familiar with HLB as a regular participant in board meetings. Christa has an undeniable passion for our mission to reactivate properties and develop equitable solutions in housing, economic development, and other improvements that can stabilize, transform and sustain communities."

Stoneham, who reported on City of Houston activities at HLB's monthly board meetings and actively engaged in HLB committees, expressed enthusiasm and gratitude about her new role after the December 9 vote to select her as CEO and president.

"I am dedicated to bringing long-awaited resources to communities of opportunity that have been intentionally ignored and neglected. I am also conscious of the rights of the public and will proactively engage communities in the plans, policies, and programs that directly impact them," Stoneham said. "The opportunity to lead the Houston Land Bank is an honor and privilege. The most exciting component is working alongside the 50-plus years of experience on the board and collaborating with the staff who work selflessly every day. Collectively we will create a better Houston, and I look forward to supporting and amplifying the good work we've achieved in the last few years."

Stoneham joined Mayor Turner's Office of Complete Communities in April 2019 as a division manager to develop and guide community relationships in the 10 Complete Communities neighborhoods: Acres Home, Alief-Westwood, Fort Bend Houston, Gulfton, Kashmere Gardens, Magnolia Park-Manchester, Near Northside, Second Ward, Sunnyside, and Third

Ward. Stoneham's responsibilities included managing and developing strategic partnerships with local government entities, elected officials, school districts, civic organizations, and nonprofit agencies, working closely with the Complete Communities director and City staff to establish and cultivate alliances. She also supported the fundraising and implementation strategy by raising over \$30 million and launching projects such as the Bethune Empowerment Center, collaborating with partners from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors.

Before joining the Office of Complete Communities, Ms. Stoneham worked for five years as a senior planner in the City of Houston's Planning and Development Department. She led the first Complete Community, Acres Home, and presented variances and development applications to the Houston Planning Commission. A native of Dublin, California, Ms. Stoneham earned three degrees from Prairie View A&M University: a Bachelor of Science degree in architecture and master's degrees in architecture and community development.

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Houston Land Bank Background

HLB is a not-for-profit local government corporation and is a component unit of the City of Houston. HLB is committed to being a robust and innovative partner in the equitable redevelopment of vacant, abandoned, or damaged properties in Houston's neighborhoods, and a good neighbor to the communities in which we work to provide affordable homes for low- and moderate-income Houstonians. HLB's 14-member board of directors includes representatives appointed by Houston's Mayor and City Council, Harris County, and the Houston Independent School District. HLB receives local funds from the City of Houston and generates additional revenue from the sale of lots and homes. For more information, visit www.houstonlandbank.org.