



U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Fort Worth Regional Office, Region VI
Office of Public Housing
801 Cherry Street
Fort Worth, TX 76102

January 18, 2008

Honorable John Cook, Mayor
City of El Paso
2 Civic Center Plaza
El Paso, Texas 79901

Dear Mayor Cook:

The HUD, Fort Worth, Office of Public Housing appreciates your efforts to work with both The Housing Authority of the City of El Paso (HACEP) and this Office to deliver decent , safe, sanitary, and affordable housing to the people of your City. Your leadership in this area is important to our collective success.

As you know, HACEP has drawn attention recently as a result of actions by their Board of Commissioners. Several members of that Board requested that HUD review their activities and take appropriate action. After a very cursory review it was clear that actions taken by Board members, both individually and collectively raised serious questions in the areas of both Governance and Operations. The HUD/ Fort Worth Office of Public Housing has made a referral to the Inspector General on these items.

It is our understanding that you have determined to take additional action at the local level to address issues and challenges facing HACEP. Please be assured that this Office will provide our full cooperation and support as you and HACEP work together to identify weaknesses and recommend changes in their operation. This effort to review HACEP activities, policies, and procedures should include examination of both staff and Board Member roles, and the appropriate boundaries for their respective actions.

As the Appointing Authority for the HACEP Board, you play an important and critical role in the Governance of that organization. HUD supports your efforts to select and appoint individuals who have a real commitment to the mission of HACEP, and an understanding of the appropriate role of a Board Member in that mission.

Again, thank you for your continuing efforts to ensure that the people of El Paso are provided with affordable housing opportunities in the most effective and efficient manner possible.

Sincerely,

Justin R. Ormsby, Director
Office of Public Housing
U.S. Department of HUD
Fort Worth, Texas