



PRESS RELEASE

Columbia Housing Authority Board Scrutinized for Use of Funds

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COLUMBIA, SC- On November 8th, 2021 board members of the Columbia Housing Authority authorized resources to be redirected in support of political activity and away from residents.

In an email from Chairman Earnest Cromartie III, resources that would otherwise be invested in improving the lives and homes of Columbia's citizens will now be used for furthering political activities. The directive includes orders to use CHA funds for political robo calls, text messages and transportation.

Columbia Housing Authority staff are also being redirected to focus on political issues. CHA staff will be calling residents and driving vans to polling locations. Personnel resources were also reallocated to "accomplish this goal," per Chairman Cromartie, who is also a Devine donor and supporter.

"I want every citizen in Columbia to vote," Rickenmann said, "but money designed to serve the most vulnerable among us should never be redirected to serve the political interests of insiders. This is the kind of behavior that has left people behind in Columbia for over a decade."

The Rickenmann Campaign is calling on Rep. Clyburn, Rep. Wilson, Attorney General Wilson, and the HUD Inspector General to investigate and ensure the Columbia Housing Authority is focused on serving the people.

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