

information collection to OMB for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended). This Notice is soliciting comments from members of the public and affected agencies concerning the proposed collection of information to: (1) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

This Notice also lists the following information:

*Title of Proposal:* Financial Standards for Housing Agency-Owned Insurance Entities.

*OMB Control Number:* 2577-0186.  
*Description of the Need for the Information and Proposed Use:*

Collection of this information is required by the HUD Appropriations Act for FY 1992, Public Law 102.139, 105 Stat. 736 (approved October 28, 1991). The Act provided that public housing agencies (PHAs) could purchase insurance coverage without regard to competitive selection procedures, if the insurance was purchased from a nonprofit insurance entity owned and controlled by PHAs approved by HUD, in accordance with standards established by regulation. A PHA-owned insurance entity selected by a PHA to provide coverage must submit a certification to HUD, stating that the entity management and underwriting staff have certain levels of experience. For initial approvals, the entity must also submit proper organizational documentation. The nonprofit entity must submit copies of audits every year, actuarial reviews every year, and management reviews every three years.

*Agency Form Number:* N/A.

*Members of Affected Public:* Public Housing Agencies.

*Estimation of the Total Number of Hours Needed to Prepare the Information Collection Including*

*Number of Respondents:* There are 22 audit respondents annually at eight hours per response. There are approximately 22 claims responses over a three-year period, for an average of

seven responses per year at two hours per response. Average response time per respondent is 6.55 hours.

*Status of the Proposed Information Collection:* Extension of currently approved collection.

**Authority:** Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended.

Dated: February 7, 2007.

**Bessy Kong,**

*Deputy Assistant Secretary, Policy, Program and Legislative Initiatives.*

[FR Doc. E7-2572 Filed 2-13-07; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-4837-D-53]

### Delegation of Procurement Authority and Designation of Senior Procurement Executive and Chief Acquisition Officer

**AGENCY:** Office of the Secretary, HUD.

**ACTION:** Notice of delegation of authority.

**SUMMARY:** In this notice, the Secretary of HUD delegates all procurement authority to the Chief Procurement Officer. The Chief Procurement Officer will continue to serve as the Department's Senior Procurement Executive. The Secretary also designates the Deputy Secretary as the Department's Chief Acquisition Officer.

**DATES:** *Effective Date:* February 1, 2005.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Gloria Sochon, Assistant Chief Procurement Officer for Policy and Systems, Office of the Chief Procurement Officer, 451 Seventh Street, SW., Room 5276, Washington, DC 20410-3000, (202) 708-0294 (this is not a toll-free number). Persons with hearing or speech impairments may access this number through TTY by calling the toll-free Federal Information Relay Service at 800-877-8339 (this is not a toll-free number).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Secretary is issuing this delegation to eliminate duplicative delegation of procurement authority to the Assistant Secretary for Administration/Chief Information Officer and the Chief Procurement Officer (CPO). This notice also implements Section 1421 of the Services Acquisition Reform Act of 2003 by designating the Deputy Secretary as the Department's Chief Acquisition Officer. The CPO will report directly to the Deputy Secretary and will be responsible for all departmental procurement activities. The CPO is also

designated as the Senior Procurement Executive. This delegation changes only the reporting level of the CPO position pursuant to the Department's implementation of Section 1421. This delegation does not add, eliminate, or redistribute any functions or duties within the Office of the CPO.

Accordingly, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development hereby revokes, designates, and delegates as follows:

### Section A. Authority Revoked

This notice revokes the Notice of Delegation of Authority published in the **Federal Register** on August 20, 2003 (68 FR 50157), which delegated all procurement authority to both the Assistant Secretary for Administration/Chief Information Officer and the CPO, delegated to the Assistant Secretary for Administration/Chief Information Officer responsibility for administrative oversight of all departmental procurement activities, and designated the CPO as the Senior Procurement Executive.

### Section B. Designation and Delegation of Authority

The Deputy Secretary is designated as the Department's Chief Acquisition Officer.

The CPO continues to serve as the Department's Senior Procurement Executive and is delegated the authority to exercise all duties, responsibilities, and powers of the Secretary with respect to departmental procurement activities. The authority delegated to the CPO includes the following duties, responsibilities, and powers:

1. Authority to enter into, administer, or terminate all procurement contracts, as well as interagency agreements entered into under the authority of the Economy Act, and make related determinations and findings. This includes the authority to order, pursuant to HUD's regulations at 24 CFR part 24, the sanctions of debarment, suspension, or limited denial of participation.

2. Responsibility for procurement program development, including:
  - a. Implementation of procurement initiatives, best practices, and reforms;
  - b. In coordination with the Office of Federal Procurement Policy, determination of specific areas where governmentwide performance standards should be established and applied, and development of governmentwide procurement policies, regulations, and standards;

- c. Establishment and maintenance of an evaluation program for all procurement activities within the Department;

d. Development of programs to enhance the professionalism of the Department's procurement work force, including the establishment of educational, training, and experience requirements for procurement personnel; and

e. Development of all departmental procurement policy, regulations, and procedures.

### Section C. Authority To Issue Rules and Regulations

The CPO is authorized to issue rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the authority delegated under Section B.

### Section D. Authority To Redelegate

The authority delegated to the CPO under Section B may be redelegated to qualified employees of the Department.

**Authority:** 41 U.S.C. 414; Section 7(d) of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act (42 U.S.C. 3535(d)).

**Editorial Note:** This document was received at the Office of the Federal Register February 8, 2007.

Dated: February 1, 2005.

**Alphonso Jackson,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. E7-2499 Filed 2-13-07; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-5131-N-01]

### Notice of Realignment of HUD's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Processing Functions

**AGENCY:** Office of the Secretary, HUD.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice advises the public that HUD has realigned its Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) processing functions from the Office of General Counsel to the Office of the Executive Secretariat in the Office of Administration. The realignment of FOIA processing functions will improve the efficiency and consistency of HUD's FOIA operations.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Vicky Lewis, Assistant Executive Secretary, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Office, Office of the Executive Secretariat, Office of Administration, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street, SW., Room 10139, Washington, DC 20410-0001; telephone (202) 708-3866 (this is not a toll-free number). Persons with hearing or speech impairments may access this number via TTY by calling

the toll-free Federal Information Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) provides the means by which the public can obtain information regarding federal agencies. Under FOIA, the public can request records from any agency, which the agency must provide, subject to certain statutory exemptions and exclusions. HUD's regulations at 24 CFR part 15, entitled "Public Access to HUD Records under the Freedom of Information Act and Testimony and Production of Information by HUD Employees," describe the policies and procedures governing public access to HUD records under FOIA.

On December 14, 2005, President Bush issued Executive Order 13392, entitled "Improving Agency Disclosure of Information," which acknowledged the importance of participation by an informed citizenry in the effective functioning of our constitutional democracy. Executive Order 13392 was published in the **Federal Register** on December 19, 2005 (70 FR 75373). It required federal agencies to develop agency-wide plans to ensure the efficient and timely administration of FOIA requests. Such plans were to include specific activities that the agency would implement to eliminate or reduce the agency's FOIA backlog, and activities that would increase public awareness of the agency's FOIA processing. HUD submitted its plan to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Attorney General on June 14, 2006. (See <http://www.hud.gov/offices/ogc/foia/hudfoiaplanfinal.pdf>.) An integral part of HUD's plan is the realignment of FOIA processing functions from the Office of General Counsel to the Office of the Executive Secretariat in the Office of Administration. The realignment of FOIA processing functions will improve the efficiency and consistency of HUD's FOIA operations.

This notice announces to the public that HUD has realigned its FOIA processing functions from the Office of General Counsel to the Office of the Executive Secretariat in the Office of Administration. FOIA requests that were formerly submitted to the Office of General Counsel should now be submitted to the FOIA Office in the Office of the Executive Secretariat in the Office of Administration. Members of the public requesting records from HUD may continue to use the FOIA electronic request form on HUD's Internet site at <http://www.hud.gov/offices/ogc/foia/foia.cfm>. HUD is also undertaking rulemaking to update its FOIA

regulations in 24 CFR part 15 to reflect the realignment of the Department's FOIA processing functions. This notice advises the public of the realignment, pending issuance of HUD's updated regulations.

Dated: February 5, 2007.

**Keith A. Nelson,**

Assistant Secretary for Administration.

[FR Doc. E7-2571 Filed 2-13-07; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-4837-D-61]

### Office of the Chief Procurement Officer Revocation and Redelegation of Procurement Authority

**AGENCY:** Office of the Chief Procurement Officer, HUD.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In this Notice, the Chief Procurement Officer revokes all current redelegations of procurement authority and redelegates procurement authority to qualified Departmental employees.

**DATES:** *Effective Date:* January 30, 2007.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Gloria Sochon, Assistant Chief Procurement Officer for Policy and Systems, Office of the Chief Procurement Officer, Room 5276, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20410; telephone (202) 708-0294 (this is not a toll-free number). Hearing or speech-impaired individuals may access this number via TTY by calling the toll-free Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Office of the Chief Procurement Officer has recently undergone a significant reorganization to re-align it within the Department's management structure and to consolidate all contracting authority and activity (headquarters and field-based) under the Chief Procurement Officer. The reorganization also creates four Assistant Chief Procurement Officer positions, three of which are responsible for operational contracting activities. The fourth is responsible for procurement policy and systems.

The Secretary of HUD has designated the Chief Procurement Officer as the Department's Senior Procurement Executive and transferred all Departmental procurement authority to the Chief Procurement Officer.

In this Notice, the Chief Procurement Officer revokes all existing procurement