



# The Chief

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## HA Managers Get Half a Loaf With Two 2% Raises

The Housing Authority June 17 will implement two 2-percent raises, retroactive to March 1, 2008 and March 1, 2009, for its managerial personnel.

Those upgrades, announced in an e-mail to staff from Housing Authority Chairman John Rhea, produced a mixed reaction last week from Managerial Employees Association President Stuart Eber, whose organization advocates for city managers but cannot actually bargain on their behalf.

### 'Looking for Equity'

Noting that it had sought the same 4-percent raises that were granted during that contract period to unionized employees at the HA, most of who are represented by Teamsters Local 237, Mr. Eber said, "We are pleased he was able to provide some relief, but we will continue to advocate for equity and fairness for all managers."

He expressed a willingness to have additional compensation be granted to managers under a merit-pay system but added, "Our highest priority is that all managers receive the same percentage increases as non-managers."

Mr. Rhea had noted in the e-mail that despite having received \$423 million in Federal funding in March under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the HA still faced a significant budget deficit. Giving the managers raises was "a recognition of your high performance and hard work at a time of diminished resources," he wrote, while limiting them to half of what unionized personnel received was "a reflection of the current financial realities of the authority and the economy."

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