

# New Blood Coming For Troubled Housing Authority

By DAVID SIMS | Posted: Monday, August 27, 2012 5:00 pm

Housing Authority reforms continued Aug. 23 with the appointment of Cecil House as the new General Manager and the elevation of Acting Chief Financial Officer Andreas Spitzer to a permanent position.

Mr. House was formerly a senior vice president at Southern California Edison, where he served as chief procurement officer. His appointment comes as the HA begins a transformation of its leadership structure following weeks of negative press over unspent funds and repair backlogs.

## ‘Substantial Experience’

“Utilizing his substantial operations, supply-chain, and strategic-management knowledge in providing critical public services—and his experience steering organizations through change—I know that Cecil will effectively guide HA’s management team through this transformational period,” HA Chairman John B. Rhea said in a statement.

“His vision and leadership, his experience working with significant government oversight, and substantial customer-service experience will be critical as we work with HUD and other agencies to improve the delivery of services to our public housing and Section 8 families,” he added.

HA underlined Mr. House’s role working with women- and minority-owned businesses in California, where he managed a \$4-billion procurement fund.

“I am thrilled to be returning to New York City and joining Chairman Rhea, the board and staff of NYCHA in meeting the needs of the 650,000 New Yorkers who we serve every day,” Mr. House, who also formerly a lawyer in New York, said in a statement. “I look forward to working at this great public housing authority and helping NYCHA to meet its mission of providing safe, secure and well maintained housing for residents.”

Mr. Rhea also formalized Mr. Spitzer’s position after a year as Acting CFO. “Andreas has played an indispensable role in the successful release of Plan NYCHA, as Acting CFO and charted a path for the Authority to substantially reduce its operating deficit,” he said. “His dynamic leadership and devotion to NYCHA’s mission make him an obvious choice to carry on this work full time.”