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**Contact:** Lesley E. Thomas  
Director, Communications &  
Intergovernmental Relations  
(504) 248-0104  
[leugene@hano.org](mailto:leugene@hano.org)

## **HANO Executive Director Gregg Fortner Announces Future Departure**

*Board to Seek Fortner Replacement Effective July 2019*

**New Orleans, LA (February 8, 2019)** -- The Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) Executive Director Gregg Fortner today announced that he will be leaving HANO on July 7, 2019 with the expiration of his current employment contract after serving 5 years as the head of the Agency. The HANO Board of Commissioners will start the search for a new Executive Director to succeed Fortner following the completion of his contract.

"I appreciate the work that Mr. Fortner has done at HANO, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors," said Mayor LaToya Cantrell. "Under his leadership, HANO has made tremendous progress: returning the agency to local control, receiving high performance ratings from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and bringing new resources to the agency to support workforce and business development for residents and scholarships for our youth. The City is grateful for his service."

"Five years ago Mr. Fortner was challenged with returning HANO back to local control after more than a decade of federal receivership, all while establishing a strong and professional staff and re-establishing the trust of the citizens the Agency serves. We are confident that HANO is well-positioned for the next phase of its work, and are pleased that Mr. Fortner will continue to lead the agency while the board conducts a national search for his successor," said Casius Pealer, President of the HANO Board of Commissioners.

"I want to thank Mayor Cantrell for her unwavering support for HANO over the years starting with her role as City Council Member," said Fortner. "I also want to thank those dedicated HANO staff members for their tireless and sometimes underappreciated work in administering programs that provide affordable housing opportunities for over 20,000 households in our City. They are the true unsung heroes of HANO's recovery. I will continue to work for HANO to facilitate a seamless transition in executive leadership."

Fortner was the first Executive Director hired to lead the Agency through a full transition back to local control after more than a decade of federal receivership management by U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). His initial contract was extended by the HANO Board in July 2017, and again for an additional year in 2018.

Under Fortner's leadership, the Agency achieved numerous goals developed in partnership with HUD as a part of the transition plan. Fortner restructured the Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP), that administers 18,000 Section 8 vouchers, to ensure more enhanced customer service is provided to its clientele, and re-opened waiting lists for the HCV and Public Housing programs following a seven year closure. Fortner's reorganization of the HCV program achieved its recent rating as a high performer by HUD less than 2 years after its total reorganization.

He successfully led the Agency in securing yearly balanced budgets, and the achievement of its first clean financial audit since the federal takeover in 2018. Fortner also oversaw the nearly completed Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (CNI) replacing over 800 public housing units, in partnership with the City of New Orleans, and initiated the future development of more than 200 scattered site properties located across the City.

Fortner also secured additional funding to increase community supportive services provided to residents through the Resident Entrepreneur Training Initiative (RETI), Jobs Plus Grant, and the Juvenile Reentry Assistance Program. He led the implementation of the Agency's Criminal Background Policy and development of new screening procedures to remove barriers experienced by ex-offenders seeking housing opportunities. The Agency also successfully partnered with HUD and local internet providers to enhance and expand broadband and digital literacy services to families living in HANO communities.

Prior to his appointment to HANO, Fortner led the Miami-Dade Public Housing and Community Development Department and the San Francisco Housing Authority, and held several management positions with the Oakland Housing Authority, Sacramento Housing Authority and Redevelopment Agency, the Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles, and the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles.

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