

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-04-04

**RESOLUTION AMENDING THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
ACT POLICY (VAWA) FOR BOTH THE ADMISSIONS AND
CONTINUED OCCUPANCY POLICY FOR PUBLIC HOUSING AND
THE SECTION 8 ADMINISTRATIVE PLAN FOR THE SECTION 8
HOUSING PROGRAM TO CHANGE THE TIME FRAME FOR THE
VAWA INCIDENT TO OCCUR, AND THE ASSISTANCE THAT
THE FAYETTE COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY GIVES TO THE
VAWA APPLICANTS**

WHEREAS, the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) enacted the Violence Against Women Act in 1994, and this Act has been revised and reauthorized in 2005, 2013, 2019, and 2022; and

WHEREAS, under the current VAWA Policy for the Fayette County Housing Authority, it states that the incident for which the victim is claiming the abuse must have occurred within the past six (6) months; and

WHEREAS, when a victim of domestic violence is helped at the Domestic Violence Shelter in Fayette County, they are only permitted to stay in the Shelter for a period of thirty (30) days; and

WHEREAS, because of the difference in the amount of time to report an incident, some of the victims are waiting to apply for housing claiming the VAWA Preference, and have since moved out of the residence where the domestic violence occurred, so they are not in a threatened situation, and are receiving a Preference and their Application processed ahead of everyone on the Waiting List; and as a result, are not taking what is being offered to them in our Public Housing Developments, but are waiting for vacancies at our newer Housing Developments; and

WHEREAS, by amending the VAWA Policy, the Housing Authority will be able to help someone out of a domestic violence situation, and relocate them within the thirty (30) days for their protection;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Violence Against Women Act Policy (VAWA) for both Public Housing and Section 8 be amended in the Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy for Public Housing and the Section 8 Administrative Plan for Section 8 to state that the

incident of abuse has to have occurred within the past thirty (30) days, and for the Public Housing Applicants, they will be relocated to the existing vacancies we have at the time of their application, and if they refuse to be relocated for their protection, they will lose their VAWA Preference, and go on the regular Waiting List for the Projects that do not have vacancies, but they choose to wait for; and

WHEREAS, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Policy Change be submitted to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Pittsburgh Field Office.