# MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH YWCA WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT CENTER 1690 NORTH BOULEVARD, BATON ROUGE, LA 70802 OCTOBER 30, 2026 AT 2:00 PM

The Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of East Baton Rouge Parish convened in special session on Friday, October 30, 2026 at 1690 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70802. The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Payton, Chair at 1:00 P.M.

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| **Meeting Called to Order** | **Commissioner Dianna Payton, Chair** |
| **Invocation** | **Commissioner Brandon Kelly** |
| **Roll Call:** | |
| **Members Present** | **Commissioner Dianna Payton, Chair** |
| | **Commissioner Al Barron, Vice Chair** |
| | **Commissioner Justin Gaudet*** |
| | **Commissioner Brandon Kelly** |
| | **Commissioner Raushanah Hunter** |
| | **Commissioner Lynn Farris** |
| | **Commissioner Claborn** |
| **Members Absent:** | **N/A** |
| | **QUORUM PRESENT** |

***Arrived after meeting started during executive session.**

**Public Comments**

The floor was opened for public comments. Hearing none, the Board proceeded to the agenda items.

## AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 1: SUSPENSION OF BOARD MEMBER CREDIT CARDS

The Board considered a proposed revision to the agency's fiscal policy to temporarily rescind the credit cards issued to all board members. The proposal was limited to board members' access to credit cards and did not affect the agency's standard monetary obligations, standard issue credit card used for ongoing authorized transactions.

On a motion made by Commissioner Al Barron and seconded by Commissioner Raushanah Hunter, the board unanimously approved the suspension of credit cards issued to all board members. The motion carried with no opposition.

## AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 2: EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board took up an agenda item concerning a personnel matter. On a motion made by Commissioner Raushanah Hunter and seconded by Commissioner Lynn Ferris, the Board voted by roll call of the members present to enter executive session to discuss the personnel matter. The motion carried 6-0.

The Board entered executive session. No motions were made and no votes were taken during executive session. Mr. Justin Gaudet arrived during executive session

**Upon conclusion of the executive session, the Board reconvened in open session.**

## AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 3: ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE CEO

The Board considered a motion to enact an administrative suspension of Jim Daniels Jr. until the conclusion of the investigation.

On a motion made by Commissioner Raushanah Hunter and seconded by Commissioner Brandon Kelly, the administrative leave of Jim Daniels, Jr. was approved. The motion carried. Unanimously.

## AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 4: ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE COO

The Board considered a motion to enact an administrative leave of April Downs until the conclusion of the investigation.

On a motion made by Commissioner Raushanah Hunter and seconded by Commissioner Brandon Kelly, the administrative leave of April Downs was approved. The motion carried. Unanimously.

## AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 5: APPOINTMENT OF ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The Board considered the appointment of acting leadership in partnership with the Housing Authority, to remain effective until the ongoing investigations conclude.

On a motion made by Commissioner Brandon Kelly and seconded by Commissioner Rashaunah Hunter, the Board approved the appointment of Doris Mejia as acting Chief Executive Officer, effective until the conclusion of the ongoing investigations. The motion carried.

**Adjournment: Meeting Adjourned at 2:10pm**

**Dianna Payton**
**Chair**
**East Baton Rouge Parish Housing Authority**

**Doris Mejia**
**Acting Chief Executive Officer**
**East Baton Rouge Parish Housing Authority**