

PUBLIC HOUSING AGENCY OF THE CITY OF SAINT PAUL

REPORT TO COMMISSIONERS

FROM JON M. GUTZMANN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

REGARDING INFORMATIONAL REPORT
FY2017 Commissioners Scholarship Fund

DATE May 24, 2017

In Fiscal Year 2017 the PHA Commissioners Scholarship Fund awarded \$600 to one employee for educational purposes, bringing the total amount awarded during the fund's 20-year history to \$13,785.

In 1998 Commissioner Richard Willits started the scholarship fund by donating his per diem payments for attending Board meetings, saying he wanted to help PHA employees pay education-related expenses that are not covered by the PHA's tuition reimbursement plan. The tradition was continued by his successors, former Commissioners John Wilking and Marty Strub, and newly appointed Commissioner Pete Verdeja.

The PHA's tuition assistance is limited to tuition and book costs with a maximum of \$2,000 per eligible employee per year. When Commissioner Willits made the first donation he wrote:

I would like this donation to be used by the PHA for the purpose of assisting an employee or employees with their education. The education may or may not be related to their work at the PHA. Any education for the purpose of self-improvement is acceptable.

The donation can be used for childcare while attending class, transportation to and from class, books and material for a class. Any expense which will help [staff] further their education is a good use.

In August 2016 and November 2016 Human Resources notified employees that scholarship funds were available. One employee submitted two separate requests totaling \$600. Following is a breakdown of the scholarship funds paid out from 2001 to date:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount Available</u>	<u>Number of Employees Receiving Benefit</u>
FY01	\$ 990	2
FY03	1,195	2
FY05	395	1
FY06	1,105	3
FY07	1,700	3
FY09	1,775	2
FY11	1,200	7
FY14	848	4
FY15	2,400	4
FY16	1,575	3
FY17	600	1
Total	\$13,785	32 Employees

Staff who have received the funds are very appreciative of the tuition-related support from the Commissioners.

ANH/AAG/MGB/FAH