

[back to article](#)



Printed on page BS1

## Housing board under local control

### HUD returns power over Sarasota Housing Authority to newly appointed board after three years under receiver

By *Cathy Zollo*

Published: Thursday, July 10, 2008 at 3:21 a.m.

The Sarasota Housing Authority returned to local control Wednesday with the official appointment of seven members to the authority board.

The seven -- Valerie Buchand, John Colon, Veavie DeLaughter, Duane Finger, Jude Levy, Richard Martin and Joseph Miller -- had been attending Housing Authority meetings since October to learn how to manage the agency. They have not yet had the right to vote on issues.

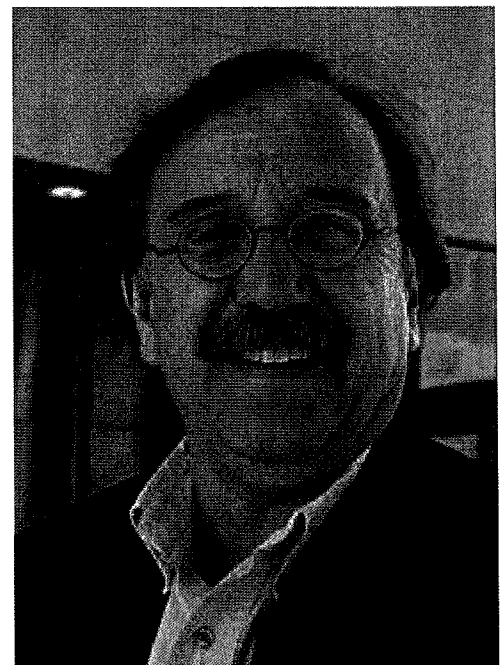
All decisions had fallen to a Federal Housing and Urban Development receiver and other HUD representatives until the agency turned over control on Wednesday.

"HUD is pleased with the agency's progress over the past three years under new leadership to improve day-to-day operations," said Paula Blunt, a deputy assistant secretary of the federal agency.

The local agency will have close scrutiny from the federal government for the next 12 to 18 months.

Citing financial mismanagement and insolvency, the federal agency took over the local housing authority in April 2005.

Under a HUD receiver, the financial condition of the authority and the physical condition of the housing units improved.



The local authority and HUD secured a deal in 2007 to tear down existing housing and replace it with mixed-income developments. Those developments will contain some public-housing units as well as low-income and market-rate housing units.

This story appeared in print on page BS1

---