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CCEH Appoints Former Housing Commissioner Evonne Klein as Interim CEO

Klein succeeds Dr. Richard Cho, who departed CCEH to join the Biden-Harris Administration

Hartford, CT (February 1, 2021) — The Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness (CCEH) announced today the appointment of former Housing Commissioner Evonne Klein as Interim CEO. Klein’s appointment follows the departure of former CEO Dr. Richard Cho, who has departed CCEH to join the Biden-Harris Administration as Senior Advisor to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. The CCEH Board will be undertaking a national search for Cho’s successor.



Klein played a pivotal role as the first Commissioner of Housing for the State of CT in over 30 years. Affordable housing is a long running and deep passion of hers. During her tenure the Department had in some phase of construction 24,000 units of housing, of which 22,000 were/are affordable. She is recognized nationally as a leader in housing. In collaboration with CCEH under her administration CT was one of three states to effectively end veteran homelessness and significantly reduce the number of chronically homeless individuals as well as reduce the number of homeless families.

Beyond her work as Housing Commissioner, Evonne has had a distinguished career fighting for justice, especially for the most vulnerable. As Co-Chair of the Fair Housing Working Group a number of pieces of zoning legislation were proposed such as state-wide inclusionary zoning, changes to the Zoning Enabling Act as well as the expansion of housing authority jurisdictions. She served as the First Selectwoman of Darien from 2003-2009. Some of her accomplishments include working with property and business owners to revitalize Downtown Darien; forming Darien’s affordable housing advisory commission, adopting an affordable housing plan and spearheading the adoption and implementation of Darien’s Inclusionary Zoning Regulation.

“While we are sad to lose Richard, we are proud that he is going on to play a key role in the Biden administration’s efforts to combat homelessness,” said CCEH Board President Omar Kouatly. “Under his leadership, CCEH has built on the legacies of Carol Walter and Lisa Tepper Bates, establishing Connecticut as a model for other states to emulate by demonstrating how a coordinated response can drive down homelessness by more than a third in a matter of years.”

“CCEH has been the architect of Connecticut’s highly successful homeless response system,” said Klein. “This work is close to my heart, and I am fortunate to join this remarkable team while the Board searches for the next CEO.”

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