

June 12, 2020

## Bill Rumpf appointed new Housing Finance Commission Chair

SEATTLE, Wash.—Governor Jay Inslee has named Bill Rumpf, recently retired president of Mercy Housing Northwest, as the new chair of the Washington State Housing Finance Commission (WSHFC).

Rumpf will start his term on June 15 as current Chair Karen Miller retires after serving since 1999.

"I'm honored to be appointed to this role, particularly to follow in the footsteps of Karen Miller," said Rumpf. "I'm eager to support WSHFC in its mission to address housing needs all over the state. Its financing will help with economic recovery in this period of time."



Karen Miller is the Commission's longest-serving member and chair, originally appointed in 1997 and named chair two years later.

"This has been a wonderful experience for me – almost 23 years of working with the greatest group of staff and board members," Miller said. "The staff really walks the walk in helping the people of Washington have a place to call home. They, not the board, are the ones who make this happen."

Miller thanked former executive director Kim Herman and all the Commission staff "for making my job so rewarding.

"I've also been blessed with a supportive husband and family, and have appreciated the support of the five governors who appointed and reappointed me over the years," she said.

The change in leadership marks another significant transition for the Commission, whose first and only executive director retired at the end of 2019 after leading the agency for 35 years.

"Bill has long been a partner to the Commission and deeply understands our mission and work," said Steve Walker, current executive director of the Commission. "His leadership and his commitment will help our agency better serve all the communities of our state."

### About Bill Rumpf

Rumpf's long career in housing and community development has demonstrated a focus on finding ways for housing to contribute to improvements in health, educational success and economic stability.

For the past ten years, Rumpf served as president of Mercy Housing Northwest, leading the nonprofit housing organization during a time of growth and innovation. Mercy now owns and operates 54 properties throughout Washington and Idaho, providing homes for more than 5,000 families and

seniors. Rumpf was also a member of the Senior Leadership Team for the parent organization Mercy Housing, Inc. one of the largest nonprofit affordable-housing developers in the country.

Prior to his career at Mercy Housing, Rumpf served for more than a decade as deputy director for the City of Seattle's Office of Housing. He led several regional homeless housing initiatives as well as a three-year collaboration with the Washington State Housing Trust Fund on asset management and recapitalization of multifamily housing, funded by the MacArthur Foundation.

Earlier positions included CEO of the California Housing Partnership and Chief of Housing for the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency. He earned an undergraduate degree at Stanford University and a master's in public policy at Harvard.

### **About Karen Miller**

On top of chairing the WSHFC board for over two decades, Miller has a long history of working in the public sector. A resident of Mountlake Terrace, she represented the 4<sup>th</sup> District on the Snohomish County Council for six years, where she also served as the chair of the Law and Justice and Human Services Committee. She also served on the Foundation Board of Edmonds Community College.



She is a past president of Washington's Trustees Association of Community and Technical Colleges, the Washington Association of Counties, and the Municipal Research Service Corporation. She was appointed to the Housing Finance Commission in 1997 and appointed chair in September of 1999.

Miller has been an active member and most recently served as president of the National Council of State Housing Boards (NCSHB), which supports state Housing Finance Agency board members to help them govern their agencies effectively.

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The [Washington State Housing Finance Commission](#) is a publicly accountable, self-supporting team that brings private investment dollars to benefit families and achieve public goals throughout Washington.

