



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## BRENDA COATES, CEO, TO RETIRE AFTER 27 YEARS OF SERVICE

On Monday, April 20, 2015, Brenda Coates, CEO of the Peoria Housing Authority (PHA), has announced her retirement. She will serve as the head of the PHA until her contract expires on January 31, 2016. "It has been my pleasure to serve the residents and clients of the PHA," Coates said Monday.

Coates began at the PHA in 1983 as an Accounts Payable Clerk in the Finance Department. She then was promoted to Accounting Manager, then to Finance Director, a position she held until 1989 when she left the organization. In 1994, she returned to the PHA, again as the Director of Finance, but was quickly promoted to the position of Deputy Executive Director just three years later. Coates served the PHA as its second-highest leader for 9 years, after which she was hired by the Board of Commissioners as the CEO to replace her retiring predecessor, Roger John, in August of 2006. Coates has spent 27 non-consecutive years at the PHA.

Coates has had a productive administration. During her tenure, 77 new affordable housing units have been developed, the Harrison Resource Center began a partnership with METEC which provides financial literacy and homeownership workshops, and a new computer lab was opened through a partnership with the PCCEO. This is on top of many family self-sufficiency-oriented successes, including the creation of the award-winning Access to Resources and Referrals Opportunity (ARRO) program. Coates led the PHA through tough financial times, while still providing the citizens of Peoria County with much-needed affordable housing choices. Coates thanks the numerous community partnerships and her employees over these years for their collaboration and support to help the PHA achieve its mission of providing public and affordable housing.

Chairman Ken Zika of the Board of Commissioners released the following statement on their behalf:

*"On behalf of the entire Board of Commissioners, I would like to express my profound gratitude to Brenda for her years of dedication and her contributions to the Housing Authority, its residents, and staff. Brenda has managed the Housing Authority with the utmost integrity, loyalty, and diligence and has always strived to do what was best for the residents, the staff, and the Peoria community."*

The PHA Board of Commissioners will proceed in forming a search committee to hire a replacement.

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