

Charlotte Golar Richie



Charlotte Golar Richie serves the City of Boston as **Cabinet Chief of Housing and Director of the Department of Neighborhood Development (DND)**. As a member of Mayor Menino's Cabinet, she advises him on policy, legislation and community relations; and she has coordinated the Mayor's Housing Advisory panel, where public, corporate and nonprofit partners took action to design and implement housing strategies for Boston. As DND Director, Charlotte manages a 200-person department with \$100 million budget, including the city's federal grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, which provide funding for housing, economic development and human service programs. In addition, she oversees the Rental Housing Resource Center, which provides assistance to Boston tenants and landlords.

Housing preservation, production and homeownership accomplishments have surpassed established goals during Charlotte's tenure with the City of Boston. Through her efforts, *Leading the Way I & II* campaigns were launched, helping the City start nearly **18,000 new units of housing** (including over 5,000 units affordable to low- and moderate-income residents); preserve over 6,100 affordable units from becoming market-rate; provide technical or financial assistance to over 1,800 first-time homebuyers; and create more than 1,100 units of housing for the homeless.

Although Charlotte may be best known for her accomplishments in housing, she also has oversight of **DND's Office of Business Development (OBD)**. The office has stimulated economic recovery and has provided financial and technical assistance to small businesses in neighborhoods throughout the city. In 2005, OBD served 1,300 businesses and entrepreneurs and created and/or retained 650 jobs in Boston through various agency-supported initiatives, including the following:

- **The Neighborhood Restaurant Initiative** created by OBD in 2004, provides loans of up to \$100,000 to assist restaurants that promise to create ten or more jobs and that locate in commercial districts underserved by sit-down restaurants. This initiative has facilitated the opening and renovation of some 50 restaurants in neighborhoods throughout the city.
- In 2005, **Boston Main Streets**, a nationally recognized, award-winning program begun by Mayor Menino and managed by DND, helped start 31 new businesses, created 274 new jobs, invested \$181,000 in physical improvements and leveraged \$500,000 in private investment. During the program's ten-year history, 540 new businesses were assisted, 3,643 new jobs created, \$1.5 million in DND improvement grants was invested and over \$9.5 million was leveraged from the private sector. The new Boston Main Streets Foundation was started in 2005 to raise \$2.5 million for the 19 Main Streets districts.
- Charlotte's agency has spurred **neighborhood revitalization** with the creation of a shopping center in Grove Hall in 1999, the *Grove Hall Mecca*, and this year, with the first newly constructed office/retail development in Dudley Square in 40 years.
- DND is the lead city agency providing support for the **Blue Hill Avenue Initiative**, a 13-year public/private revitalization program, which has transformed the corridor from Dudley Street to Grove Hall; and the agency has actively started new projects along Blue Hill Avenue, south of Columbia Road and into Mattapan Square. Businesses like Poppa B's, F.J. Cleaners and Tender Heart Day Care are all recipients of Restore grants to help improve their storefronts.

Charlotte is a former elected official, winning three terms to the Massachusetts General Court as the Representative of the Fifth Suffolk District (Dorchester and Roxbury). As a freshman legislator she was appointed Chair of the Joint Committee on Housing and Urban Development, the first time in 30 years that a first-term rep. was appointed as chair. Her committee, which handled legislative and budget matters, shepherded to passage a \$296 million bond bill for housing.

Charlotte Golar Richie is a graduate of Rutgers University (B.A.) and Columbia University (M.S. in Journalism); she is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Business Administration at Suffolk University. Charlotte is a former U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer, having served in Kenya, East Africa. A long-time Dorchester resident, she lives with her husband Winston, two daughters and family dog Benji.

A partial list of awards includes: 2006 **Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD) Community Award** for "strong leadership in creating affordable housing . . . and in spearheading a wide range of economic development programs"; 2006 Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority **Helyn Hall Economics Award**; 2006 Mattapan Community Development Corporation **Community Service Award**; 2005 U.S. Peace Corps' **Franklin H. Williams Award**; 2004 **Good Housekeeping Magazine Women in Government Award**; 2004 **YWCA Women's Leadership Award**; 2003 Mass Council of Human Service Providers' **Municipal Official of the Year Award**; 2002 Boston Magazine's **40 Bostonians to Watch**; 2002 Citizens Housing and Planning Association (CHAPA) **Community Service Award**; 2002 Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce **Pinnacle Award, Achievement in Management, Government.**