

# News Release from



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 13, 2023

CONTACT: Narine Manukova  
517-490-8232

## **GOVERNOR WHITMER APPOINTS BOB FILKA TO NEW STATEWIDE HOUSING PARTNERSHIP**

**Lansing, MI** – Governor Gretchen Whitmer appointed HBAM CEO Bob Filka to the Michigan State Housing Development Authority Statewide Housing Partnership. The new Partnership will lead a coordinated, data-driven, outcome-oriented approach to housing, ensuring that all Michiganders have a safe, affordable place to call home. They will also establish regional consortiums to ensure statewide initiatives build on local efforts whenever possible, and they will keep Michiganders updated on their progress with public-facing communications. The Partnership will dissolve on September 6, 2024.

Last year, Governor Whitmer signed Executive Order 2022-10 establishing the Statewide Housing Partnership as an advisory body within the Michigan State Housing Development Authority. Members include leaders from state, local, and tribal governments, advocates from nonprofit and community organizations, and representatives from the business advocacy world and finance industry.

The partnership's primary responsibility is to develop a strategy to implement the Michigan Statewide Housing Plan released in 2022 and make recommendations to MSHDA on how best to achieve its goals. The plan presented opportunities for organizations to partner on common objectives, including rehabilitating and stabilizing the housing supply, reducing equity gaps and homelessness, and increasing home energy efficiency and weatherization.

"I look forward to serving on the newly formed Housing Partnership," said HBAM CEO Bob Filka. "Addressing our attainable housing shortage is critical to the state's economic growth and I applaud the Governor for moving forward with the creation of this advisory board."

Bob Filka is a Hope College graduate and Muskegon native and has served in his current role since 2006. Filka has more than 35 years of government and policy experience in both Washington, D.C. and Lansing. Early in his career, he was a legislative aide to the late Grand Rapids-area Congressman Paul Henry on Capitol Hill. Upon returning to Michigan, he served as a policy advisor to Governor John Engler. He was appointed by Engler as President of the Michigan Strategic Fund and became part of the original executive leadership group that created the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. Bob is active in numerous organizations and has served stints as Chair of the Habitat for Humanity of Michigan Board of Directors and the Michigan Virtual University among others. Bob remarried last year (wife Karen) and has two adult daughters (Elise and Isabel) and a new granddaughter (Lily).

*The Home Builders Association of Michigan, a professional trade association comprised of 19 local homebuilder associations around the state and their 5,000 builder, subcontractor, and supplier members. As the state's largest association representing construction-related sectors, the HBA of Michigan works to positively promote the building industry and impact legislative, regulatory and legal issues affecting housing attainability.*

####