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Hartford Land Bank Names Arunan Arulampalam as New Chief Executive Officer

HARTFORD CT [July 19, 2021] – The Board of the Hartford Land Bank, Inc. has named Arunan Arulampalam to be the new Chief Executive Officer of the organization. An active Hartford resident from the South End, Arunan stepped down as Deputy Commissioner for the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection to join the Land Bank.

“I am excited about the potential for the Hartford Land Bank to serve as a vehicle not just for redevelopment, but for building wealth in our neighborhoods,” said Arunan. “In this role I hope to grow a pipeline of Hartford developers of color who can acquire capital working on Land Bank properties, youth in our city who can acquire skills in the construction trades by working on those properties, and renters in our city who can become homeowners by purchasing those properties. If we can do that the Land Bank will create sustainable generational impact by building generational wealth.”

“Arunan has been a strong member of my administration since I took office and a personal friend,” said Governor Ned Lamont. “His family is in Hartford and his heart is with the city he loves. He is an ideal choice for the Hartford Land Bank, and someone with the right values to help strengthen neighborhoods and communities in our capital city.”

“We established the Hartford Land Bank” said Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin, “with the hope that it would grow into the focused, flexible, and creative leader of our work to take blighted properties and bring them back to life — creating homeownership opportunities, lifting up neighborhoods, and spurring new investment. I’m thrilled that Arunan will be leading the Land Bank, because I know that he loves Hartford, he believes in that mission, and he’ll work tirelessly, skillfully and with a huge sense of urgency in doing that work.”

Arunan is on the board of the Hartford Public Library, the advisory board for the Connecticut Health Foundation, is a Commissioner on the Hartford Redevelopment Authority, and is on the Hartford Charter Review Commission.

Arunan takes over for Carey Shea, who has served as Interim Executive Director since February.

“It was important to our Board to find someone who was deeply committed to our neighborhoods to take over this organization” said Melvyn Colón, Board Chair. “We are also so fortunate to have had Carey Shea – a nationally-known and highly regarded community development expert – serve as Interim Executive Director to shepherd us through this transition.”

The work of the Land Bank is deeply personal to Arunan. He and his wife purchased a vacant and blighted property on the border of Frog Hollow and Barry Square to raise their young family in.

“On my street there are only three other owner-occupied homes,” he said, “which is not unusual in a city with a homeownership rate of 24%. Every day I see the disparities between the homeowners on my block, and those who are at the mercy of out-of-town landlords. I hope the work of the Land Bank can help break that cycle in neighborhoods like mine by giving voice and power to the residents.”

About Hartford Land Bank:

The Hartford Land Bank identifies and acquires vacant, abandoned, tax-delinquent, and/or distressed properties in the City of Hartford, Connecticut, to steward their rehabilitation and return to productive community assets. Hartford Land Bank, Inc. is a non-profit corporation. For more information, visit hartfordlandbank.org.

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