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## Suffolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority's executive director retiring

By Victoria Bourne  
The Virginian-Pilot  
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(courtesy photo)

Clarissa E. McAdoo is set to retire as executive director and CEO of the Suffolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority.

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After two decades leading the Suffolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority, Clarissa E. McAdoo is set to retire as executive director and CEO in August.

McAdoo, 60, has also served as secretary to the authority's board of commissioners. In a news release, Branch P. Lawson, the board's chairman, said McAdoo "has been a very strong leader ... who has managed the organization through challenging times and housing industry transitions."

According to [her online bio](#) and Virginian-Pilot archives, McAdoo was the first African American to hold the executive director position when she was appointed by the board in 1996.

She helped spawn the city's National Night Out, an annual crime prevention awareness event, according to the release. During her tenure, Suffolk was one of 13 cities nationally to receive the Choice Neighborhood Planning Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to assist with public housing revitalization.

Among other recognitions, McAdoo has been a [YWCA South Hampton Roads Women of Distinction](#) honoree and received the Athena Award from the Suffolk division of the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce for her community involvement and being a role model for women, according to Pilot archives.

The authority's board of commissioners will select McAdoo's successor, the release said, and both internal and external candidates will be considered for the job.

Visit [www.suffolkrha.org](http://www.suffolkrha.org) for more information.

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## Victoria Bourne

Victoria Bourne is a reporter covering the city of Suffolk.

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