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## New president/CEO takes the reins at Belmont Housing



Image: Buffalo Business First

Construction is underway at Main St. Lofts, 1689 Main St., Buffalo, one of several affordable housing projects being overseen by Belmont Housing Resources.

MARK MULVILLE



By [Jacob Tierney](#) – Reporter, Buffalo Business First  
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### Story Highlights

- Brad Packard has been named the next president and CEO of Belmont Housing Resources.
- Current CEO/President Michael Riegel will retire July 1 after 40 years with the nonprofit.
- Packard takes the reins as Belmont is overseeing construction of millions of dollars in new housing.

Nonprofit affordable housing agency Belmont Housing Resources has named a new leader.

Brad Packard has been appointed the agency's next president and CEO, taking the reins as Belmont oversees the construction of millions of dollars worth of new housing in Western New York.

Packard is replacing Michael Riegel, who on July 1 will retire from Belmont after 40 years. Riegel was one of the organization's first employees and became its second president after founder Elizabeth Huckabone stepped down in 2015.

Riegel first started discussing his retirement plans with Belmont's board about two years ago, and succession planning has been in the works since, according to Packard.

"As one of the early visionaries for Belmont, Mike was instrumental in growing our capacity to serve residents in the community, and he's left an incredible legacy, one that I am committed to carrying forward," Packard said.

Packard joined Belmont in 2017, having previously worked as planner for the Town of Clarence and director of development and planning for Ciminelli Real Estate.



Brad Packard, incoming President and CEO, Belmont Housing Resources for WNY

BELMONT HOUSING RESOURCES FOR WNY

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He rose to the rank of chief operating officer at Belmont, helping to oversee numerous projects backed by a wide array of state and federal funding sources.

He said an "intentional and focused" effort on creating more affordable housing in Western New York is essential from both a human and an economic perspective.

"There's both the moral and philosophical case around doing this work, but there's also huge market demand," he said.

Belmont manages numerous housing communities around the region while also providing counseling, housing choice voucher services, a lead abatement program and numerous other housing-related initiatives.

The agency is involved in several housing construction projects, including:

- **Main Street Lofts:** Belmont partnered with Cincinnati-based Pivotal Housing Partners to build 147 units at 1689 Main St., Buffalo. The \$64 million project

broke ground in late 2023 and is targeting completion next year. The project features a five-story main building and seven three-bedroom townhomes fronting Masten Ave.

- **875 Lafayette @ Gates:** Belmont is the sole developer and owner of this project, which will convert three buildings on the former Millard Fillmore Gates Circle Hospital into 80 affordable apartments. The \$36 million project started in September with aim of finishing by next summer.
- **McCoy-Young Commons:** Belmont is working with Western New York Church of God in Christ to build a three-story, 43-unit apartment building and 10 two-story townhomes at 657 Clinton St. and 18 Adams St. The \$22 million project is seeking funding from New York State Homes and Community Renewal. Packard said the state won't announce funding decisions until the second quarter of next year.
- **Laurel Street homes:** Belmont is planning to acquire several city-owned vacant lots on Laurel Street to build five single-family homes. The agency is finalizing its funding application to the state and hopes to be able to begin construction this fall.

Packard acknowledged that he is taking the reins at an uncertain time, as federal political changes and turmoil in the construction industry make it harder to predict the financial future for projects. He plans to stay the course, continuing and expanding Belmont's mission.

"It's a time to focus on our areas of strength and continue to provide those services int he community," he said.