

HENRY L. SHATTUCK

# PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS

## 2018 Henry L. Shattuck Public Service Award Recipient



**Robert (Bob) Gehret, Deputy Director, Department of Neighborhood Development, (DND)**

As **Deputy Director, Policy Development and Research at DND**, Bob Gehret is a major force in providing critical services to the City's most vulnerable residents. Bob has been responsible for his team's creation of extensive databases that provide the critical underpinning for much of the housing and community development policies undertaken by DND. Contributing to Bob's success is his ability to make everyone feel empowered through the credence he gives to their opinions and knowledge.

For more than 30 years Bob has been a key leader on the Neighborhood Development policy team. As head of DND's Policy and Research Division, Bob provides the primary interface with the US Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD). In this role, DND's data-driven approach to resource management developed by Bob and his team has enabled DND to make stronger cases for federal funding. Bob has succeeded in securing and protecting federal resources for the City of Boston because he understands that working with HUD requires one to be methodical and to understand the minutiae of federal program guidelines. His research has gained funds for innumerable community development and lead abatement project, and has led to federal funding for millions of dollars on housing projects that otherwise would not have been possible.

One significant example of his work is the funding Bob secured for the Quincy Corridor Transformation Plan which was awarded one of five Choice Neighborhoods Initiative challenge grants in the country. This funding is enabling the City to reconfigure, rebuild or build 200 housing units in the Quincy Street neighborhoods of Roxbury and Dorchester. Additionally, roadways and sidewalks, trees, and lighting were improved, After-School and Adult Education programs were funded, and the Pearl Meats building was transformed into a food incubator providing jobs for local residents.

In addition to his own research and development of projects, Bob has trained generations of public service workers to navigate through the complex system of federal regulations. His expertise and ability to share his knowledge is recognized by the hundreds of city employees he has helped train and US Congressional Subcommittees that have called upon him to interpret housing rules.

For additional information, please contact Boston Municipal Research Bureau at 617-227-1900