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V. Ward Boswell, the 82-year-old chairman of the Alexandria Redevelopment Housing Authority, remained mum yesterday on a request by the City Council that he resign from the Authority.

After an angry refusal when he first heard of the request late Tuesday night, Boswell said yesterday that "it is not my privilege to resign. It is up to the Housing Authority to tell me to."

A closed meeting of the Authority was held yesterday. Afterwards Boswell refused comment.

The Council voted the action unanimously after Edward J. R. Gulewicz appeared before the Council seeking Boswell's resignation. Gulewicz, an Old Town resident, who has been campaigning against slum housing, charged that Boswell has lost public confidence.

Gulewicz and seven other Old Town residents filed a petition in August asking for a grand jury investigation of two houses owned by Boswell. The houses, at 224 and 226 Hammond ct., were alleged to be a public nuisance. The grand jury will meet Oct. 24.

Mayor Leroy S. Bendheim said it was incongruous for a member of the agency charged with elimination of slums to be himself in violation of the housing code. He said Boswell's continuation in office was embarrassing to the Council which is trying to restore confidence in urban renewal.

The August report of the Health Department lists six houses owned by Boswell as in violation of the housing-hygiene code. Several of them have been substandard for some time Health Department records show.

Boswell is also the agent for the estate of George T. Klipstein, which owns five houses now considered in violation of minimum housing standards.

Richard L. Ruffner, who first appointed Boswell to the Housing Authority when he was mayor in 1939, is executor for the Klipstein estate. Ruffner has said that Boswell has responsibility for keeping the buildings in repair.

Also cited as substandard are three houses owned by the Recker Bros. real estate firm. Frederick E. Recker, a member of the firm is chair-

man of the Housing-Hygiene Board.

A total of 120 houses in Alexandria are currently listed as in violation of the housing code.

The Housing Authority, headed by Boswell has not built a large public housing project since six years ago. However a request that the Council approve planning for a new public housing project of undetermined size was made by the Authority last week.