

Alexandria Housing Approved

The Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority last night received City Council approval to begin planning a new low-rent public housing project.

Executive Director John Y. Kerr told the Council that 1000 city families now live in substandard or overcrowded dwellings. These families represent 4600 persons, about 5 per cent of the city's population, he told a reporter.

Kerr said the Authority had been aware of the need for more public housing for 18 months, but had waited for development of the urban renewal plan. Now, he said, the need is "pressing" and cannot be deferred.

The minimum time in which a project could be completed is 18 months, he said.

Councilman F. Clinton Knight asked whether the construction of more public housing would bring about the elimination of slums "as required by law." He charged, and Kerr denied, that in the past slums have not been destroyed when public housing was built.

The Council received a citizens petition approving its action in "requesting" the resignation of Housing Authority Chairman V. Ward Boswell. The petition, presented by Edward J. R. Gulewicz, asked further action to remove Boswell who is under attack as an owner of slum property.