

President/CEO's Report

Housing Authority Of The City Of Orlando, Florida
Vivian Bryant, Esq., President/CEO
Ed Carson, Chair

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE DESK

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- PHADA Commissioner's Conference
San Diego, CA
January 13-16, 2013
- NAHRO Legislative Conference
Washington, DC
March 17-20, 2013
- FAHRO Executive Director's Retreat
Miami, FL
May 7-9 2013
- PHADA Annual Convention and Exhibition
San Antonio, TX
May 19-22, 2013

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VIVIAN BRYANT, ESQ.
PRESIDENT/CEO

When you think of October, you think of Halloween. Children and adults alike have already chosen their costumes for the 31st. In recent years, though, breast cancer has also taken the forefront in the month of October.

Christmas is almost here. This year, surveys report that Black Friday and Cyber Monday sales were up more than 12 per-

cent. Some of it can be viewed as shoppers forsaking their normal bills and going for the gusto or that shoppers actually have more expendable cash. Whatever the case may be, more people are shopping for more goods. As we all know, technology-type gifts are at the top of the wish list. There are more tablets, computers, smart phones and electronic devices available than ever. To me this is a signal of society's trend to "go green."

The Orlando Housing Authority has spent a large portion of this year putting "go green" initiatives into place. The application process for the agency can now be totally completed online from any computer that has access to the Internet. This initiative has proven to increase our staffs' productivity while at the same time offer greater flexibility to the public that we serve. The computer lab at our Moving To Work Resource Center also assists our residents to take advantage of online job searches and application submissions. The Orlando Housing Authority will continue to search out ways to enhance and promote the technological options available to our staff and residents

Whether you will be giving or receiving electronic gifts or giving and receiving a simple

Christmas card, the idea of the season is to reflect and to celebrate. As I reflect on the past year as President/CEO, I am encouraged and always enlightened by the strides the agency continues to make. This year we were able to utilize several of our residents in a special program for employment training. During their period of employment, I had the opportunity to get to know them and the stories of their lives in a more intimate way. It is rewarding to know that our agency offers more than housing. As we move into 2013, we will begin to implement initiatives for the next phase of our Moving To Work program. I encourage our staff to enjoy the holidays and return with even greater vision and creativity.

Reflecting causes me to think of how blessed I am. To be blessed with family, friends and the passion of my work brings thoughts of joy and gratitude. It is my hope that you will do the same. Even if you are not able to spend big bucks this Holiday, think of ways to show friends and family how blessed you are to have them as your gift. As President/CEO, I enjoy using a few hours to decorate our offices with the help of staff. Hanging ornaments, humming along to Christmas songs and sharing a treat together is a wonderful gift to me.

It is my prayer that this Holiday Season will be filled with joy, peace and goodwill for you and your families. I am blessed to have my faith and belief in God that sustains me, a loving family and a great staff that believe excellence.



Board of Commissioners' Meeting

The Orlando Housing Authority Board of Commissioners will hold its Board Meeting, Thursday, December 6, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. at the OHA's Administration Building, Board Room, 390 N. Bumby Avenue, Orlando, FL 32803.

Orlando Housing Authority residents interested in attending the meeting who need transportation, and/or have special needs, please call the Community Affairs and Communications Department at (407) 895-3300, extension 6100.

HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE



Commissioner Daisy Lynam, District 5, City of Orlando; Noranne B. Downs, Secretary, District 5, FDOT; Hugh Harling, Executive Director, East Central Florida Regional Planning Council; Craig Ustler, President, Ustler Development, Inc.; and Vivian Bryant, Esq., President/CEO, Orlando Housing Authority. This was a real-work conference. Our



thanks to Wells Fargo Bank for their financial support and to the Citrus Bowl Varsity Club for providing a venue for the Conference

November 1, 2012, the Orlando Housing Authority hosted its first Housing and Economic Development Conference. The theme was "Building Blocks for a Stronger Community". The purpose of the conference was to present dynamic, diverse and knowledgeable panelist. The audience included City of Orlando and Orlando Housing Authority residents, housing professionals, government officials, business professionals, lenders, developers, not for profit organizations and consultants. This was an excellent opportunity to discuss programs, initiatives, and projects in the Orlando and Central Florida community. Organizations and individuals gained insight on how to work together to ensure their goals are achieved. The panel discussions presented opportunities will benefit our community. **Wells Fargo** Bank was the principal sponsor of the conference.



The conference began with a greeting from Mayor Buddy Dyer and was followed by three panel discussions. The first panel discussion focused on **Employment and Training**. The panelist included Allie Braswell, Jr., President/CEO, Central Florida Urban League; Jose Ramos, Area Manager, U. S. Small Business Administration; Janeiro Coulter, Manager, BLUEPRINT Employment Office, City of Orlando; Marilyn Gordon, Director, Vocational & Community Services, Goodwill Industries of Central Florida, and a testimonial by Terry Fisher, a BLUEPRINT job recipient employed by Sign Recovery Services and a

HUD Section 3 Resident.

The second panel discussion focused on **Housing Preservation**. The panelists included Hugh Rowden, Senior Vice President, Wells Fargo; Frances DeJesus, Housing Manager, Housing and Community Development Department, City of Orlando; Bishop Allen T. D. Wiggins, D. D, President of the Village of Orlando, Inc.; and a testimonial by Frank Fucci, OHA Hampton Park Homeowner.

The third panel discussion focused on **Leadership at Work**, where policy, planning and major program efforts such as SunRail and the Creative Village projects were shared with conference attendees. This session was moderated by Carolyn Fennel, Director of Public Affairs for the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority. The panelist included



DISASTER PREPAREDNESS WORKSHOP



Thursday, November 8, 2012, ten residents from the Johnson Manor Apartments participated in a disaster-preparedness information workshop. The workshop was provided by Mr. Sergio Padilla, President/CEO of Metro Orlando Hispanic Cert, Inc., This is a non-profit organization, which conducts free basic certification training classes in CPR, First Aid and Disaster Response. The residents received information on how to prepare for potential natural disaster, and the importance of having supplies available such as: batteries, flashlights, bottled water, a first aid kit, weather radios, non perishable food, and the telephone numbers of local emergency agencies. Mr. Padilla addressed various emergency scenarios, and



how to respond during the first 72 hours depending on the particular disaster: fire, hurricane, tornado, and earthquake. The residents also received information on how to use a fire extinguisher, how to conduct CPR, and how to become certified on First Aid and CPR in the State of Florida. The residents were able to practice the CPR techniques learned from Mr. Padilla and also received additional information from a video focusing on CPR.

FALL FESTIVAL AT MARDEN MEADOWS



Wednesday, October 31, 2012, the Marden Meadows Apartments Resident Association held its Fall Festival for the entire Marden Meadows community. The festival started at 1:00 p.m. and ended at 5:30 p.m. The residents had an enjoyable afternoon. The fun-filled activities included the bounce houses for the children. They enjoyed eating barbecue, popcorn, and candy. Healthy juices were enjoyed by young and old. This fun interaction is a great prelude to the holiday season. The residents look forward to the next Fall Festival.



COMMISSIONER SHEEHAN'S THANKSGIVING TURKEY GIVE-AWAY



November 20, 2012, District 4 City Commissioner Patty Sheehan and her partners held their annual Thanksgiving turkey giveaway for the Reeves Terrace Community. The partners include the Urban Life Management, Baker Barrios Architects, Brasfield and Gorrie General Contractors, Gai Consultants, South Street Ministries, and Publix-The Paramount on Lake Eola. The Giveaway was held from 4:30-6:30 p.m. in the Reeves Terrace Recreation Center. Residents were not only given a turkey, but also various sidings such as: stuffing, can goods, mashed potatoes, cake mix, and rice. Commissioner Sheehan and her partners also gave the residents in the Villas at Hampton Park turkeys and side dishes as well. The Reeves Terrace and Hampton Park communities are very thankful for Commissioner Sheehan and her partners for their generosity and expressions of love during this every Thanksgiving.



ORLANDO HOUSING AUTHORITY



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HUD's Mission Statement: To promote adequate and affordable housing, economic opportunity and a suitable living environment free from discrimination.

Orlando Housing Authority Mission Statement: To offer a choice of safe and affordable housing options and opportunities for economic independence for residents of Orlando and Orange County.

FAIR HOUSING CORNER

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION

A **reasonable accommodation** is a change, exception, adaptation or modification to a policy, program or service that allows a person with a disability to use and enjoy a dwelling. The term also applies to public and common use spaces.

The Fair Housing Act requires owners and landlords to make reasonable accommodations if they accommodation is necessary to ensure that a person with a disability has equal opportunity to use and enjoy the dwelling or space.

What are some examples of reasonable accommodations?

- ◆ Allowing a person with a disability to mail the rent instead of delivering it to the office;
- ◆ Assigning a parking space closest to the exit or unit to tenants with mobility disabilities;
- ◆ Allowing persons with disabilities to keep service or quality of life animals, despite a general "no pets" policy;
- ◆ Not counting a home health aide, therapist, nurse, etc. as an additional tenant or guest/
- ◆ Allowing a tenant to move to a more suitable unit when one becomes available;
- ◆ Releasing a tenant with disabilities, who must move because of his/her disability, from lease requirements.

Source: www.disabilityrightsflorida.org

■ TRUE OR FALSE? ■

The Fair Housing Act's design and construction requirements require 20% of the units in new multifamily housing to be accessible.

The answer is **FALSE!** In a new multifamily housing, 100% of the units in a building with an elevator must be accessible. If a building does not have an elevator, all of the ground floor units in the building (regardless of the percentage or number of units) must be accessible. In rare instances, sites may have steep terrain or unusual characteristics that make it impractical for some units to be made accessible.

Source: *Fair Housing Accessibility First*



*During this Holiday Season,
May you be blessed
with the spirit of the season,
which is peace...
The gladness of the season,
which is hope...
And the heart of the season,
which is love!*

—John Greenleaf Whittier

