

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

- OHA 2012 Annual Volunteers' Appreciation Luncheon September 20, 2012
- NAHRO National Conference, Nashville, TN, October 28-30, 2012
- OHA Housing & Economic Development Conference, Citrus Bowl Varsity Club, November 1, 2012
- HOPE Fair Housing Training, Orlando, FL, November 6, 2012

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VIVIAN BRYANT, ESQ.
 PRESIDENT/CEO

The summer of 2012 was filled with excitement. A large part of that excitement was ignited around the 2012 Olympics held in London. I sat to watch the opening ceremony, and as always, I am struck by the numbers of athletes parading behind their country's flags and symbols ready to compete in their perspective events. It is a sea of faces, some known and some unknown. As the events take place, we are delighted and inspired to learn of some of the personal stories of these great Olympians. While watching I am blessed and sometimes shocked to learn of their personal struggles for excellence and achievement.

Excellence, achievement and greatness all come at a cost not always recognized publicly. Seeing the stories shared along with comments of coaches and family members really helps viewers to see far past the event and concentrate on the individual or team members.

As President/CEO of the Orlando Housing Authority, it is also important to me to be enlightened by the stories and struggles of our residents and the employees, agencies and partners who serve them. The Moving To Work (MTW) designation received by the Orlando Housing Authority has given this agency the flexibility to be creative and bring about new programs and activities for our residents. This summer I would venture to say that the Orlando Housing Authority's achievements were culminated as we ended the first year of our MTW Plan. On August 24th, our agency hosted a day of vision sharing with our partners. This day of

collaboration served to show what has happened and what will happen going forward. Our partners, residents and staff gave recommendations that will help the agency continue to excel as an MTW agency.

This was also a time to learn of the individual stories of families that have been served. Listening to the emotional, financial and personal growth of our residents was awe inspiring. It speaks very loudly to the team that works every day to ensure that not only our agency shines, but our resident families also shine.

As we move forward to the goals and objectives set forth in the plan for the years to come, I am filled with excitement and expectation of how lives will be changed because of the flexibility that the MTW designation gives us.

One of the greatest basketball players of all time, Michael Jordan was asked to give a statement regarding teamwork. He said, "Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence wins championships."

The Orlando Housing Authority is winning. Although we will not be distributing gold, silver and bronze medals, we will be recognizing our very own Dream Team. September 20th will be a day of recognition and appreciation for all of the partners who have assisted OHA during the past year. Our Board of Directors, staff and residents are only able to succeed because of teamwork.

Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. The ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results.

~Andrew Carnegie

Board of Commissioners' Meeting

The Orlando Housing Authority Board of Commissioners will hold its Annual Board Meeting, Thursday, September 20, 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 6001.

SECTION 3 CORNER

The Orlando Housing Authority's (OHA) Section 3 Department continues to reach out to the community to assist residents that are seeking training, employment, and contracting opportunities. The Section 3 Department has developed a database of 372 certified residents who have shown interest in various industries; they are now being interviewed to assess their skills and experience. Over 800 residents returned Section 3 certification and assessment forms that were mailed to them several months ago.

The Section 3 Department is looking forward to its second workforce-readiness training session which is coordinated in conjunction with the Moving to Work (MTW) Department, and in partnership with Robert Half International, Inc. This training will be held October 4, 2012 from 1p.m. to 3p.m. at the Orlando Housing Authority's Neighborhood Network Center at 1190 Conley Avenue, Orlando, FL.

On August 29, 2012 from 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., the Section 3 Department held an Information Session in Sanford, Florida at the Sanford Housing Authority (SHA). The purpose of the Information Session was to provide preliminary information to the small business community about an upcoming Demolition Project planned for buildings located at the Sanford Housing Authority (SHA). The session also provided an overview of the Section 3 program as it relates to participation from small businesses, an overview of the bid process and a tentative time frame for the bid. Information was also shared about the Section 3 business certification process, and other upcoming bid opportunities.

COMMISSIONER SHEEHAN'S BACKPACK GIVE-AWAY



For eighth consecutive year, Orlando District 4 City Commissioner Patty Sheehan and The Carroll Adams Group have held a free backpack and school-supply giveaway to children ages 5 to 13 years old living in the Reeves Terrace community. The Backpack Giveaway was held August 15, 2012 from 3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Students were able to start the school year off prepared with age-appropriate school supplies. The Reeves Terrace community thanks Commissioner Sheehan and The Carroll Adams group for their continued support and dedication.



ANNUAL NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

On August 4, 2012 from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. the Murchison Terrace community celebrated the 29th Annual National Night Out. This year's National Night Out theme was "Celebrating Safe Communities". Residents enjoyed food, games, face painting and music to bring awareness to building stronger and safer communities by giving crime a "Going Away Party." The event is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generate support and participation in local anticrime programs, strengthen neighbourhood spirit and police-community partnerships and send a message to criminals that neighbourhoods are working together to keep crime out.



THE LAKE MANN REUNION



The Lake Mann Homes Resident Association in conjunction with the Lake Mann Reunion Committee, held a Lake Mann Reunion August 18, 2012 at the Gilbert McQueen Park. The reunion activities included: a book-bag give-away, healthy snacks and food distribution. The purpose of the Reunion was to connect former and current Lake Mann Homes residents, and to allow community service



agencies to share their resources with families that attended the Reunion. The Lake Mann Homes residents had a fun-filled day and look forward to next year's Reunion.

BINGO NIGHT AT JOHNSON MANOR



On August 30, 2012, the Johnson Manor Residents participated in "Bingo Game Night" from 6:00 p.m. to -8:00 p.m. The event was hosted by Orlando's District 2 City Commissioner Tony Ortiz and his Aide, Ana Cruz. The residents were treated to pizza, bingo and were able to win prizes. The prizes consisted of household items donated by Commissioner Ortiz' Office. The Johnson Manor residents were able to eat and fellowship with one another.



COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR

On July 24, 2012, the Orlando Housing Authority in partnership with the Black Nurses Association held a Community Health Fair from 12 noon to 4:00 p.m. at the Roman Center. The theme was "Prevention is the Key" bringing focus to the importance of annual medical checkups. The Health Fair consisted of cooking and exercise stations, health screenings, food, and door prizes. The Orlando Housing Authority's residents look forward to another opportunity to partner with the Black Nurses Association.





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

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has played a lead role in administering the Fair Housing Act since its adoption in 1968. The 1988 amendments, however, have greatly increased the Department's enforcement role. First, the newly protected classes have proven significant sources of new complaints. Second, HUD's expanded enforcement role took the Department beyond investigation and conciliation into the area of mandatory enforcement.

Complaints filed with HUD are investigated by the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO). If the complaint is not successfully conciliated, FHEO determines whether reasonable cause exists to believe that a discriminatory housing practice has occurred. Where reasonable cause is found, the parties to the complaint are notified by HUD's issuance of a Determination, as well as a Charge of Discrimination, and a hearing is scheduled before a HUD administrative law judge. Either party - complainant or respondent - may cause the HUD-scheduled administrative proceeding to be terminated by electing instead to have the matter litigated in Federal court. Whenever a party has so elected, the Department of Justice takes over HUD's role as counsel seeking resolution of the charge on behalf of aggrieved persons, and the matter proceeds as a civil action. Either form of action - the ALJ proceeding or the civil action in Federal court - is subject to review in the U.S. Court of Appeals.

SIGNIFICANT RECENT CHANGES

1. The Housing for Older Persons Act of 1995 (HOPA) makes several changes to the 55 and older exemption. Since the 1988 Amendments, the Fair Housing Act has exempted from its familial status provisions properties that satisfy the Act's 55 and older housing condition. First, it eliminates the requirement that 55 and older housing have significant facilities and services designed for the elderly. Second, HOPA establishes a good faith reliance immunity from damages for persons who in good faith believe that the 55 and older exemption applies to a particular property, if they do not actually know that the property is not eligible for the exemption and if the property has formally stated in writing that it qualifies for the exemption. HOPA retains the requirement that senior housing must have one person who is 55 years of age or older living in at least 80 percent of its occupied units. It also still requires that senior housing publish and follow policies and procedures that demonstrate an intent to be housing for persons 55 and older. An exempt property will not violate the Fair Housing Act if it includes families with children, but it does not have to do so. Of course, the property must meet the Act's requirements that at least 80 percent of its occupied units have at least one occupant who is 55 or older, and that it publish and follow policies and procedures that demonstrate an intent to be 55 and older housing. A Department of Housing and Urban Development rule published in the April 2, 1999, Federal Register implements the Housing for Older Persons Act of 1995, and explains in detail those provisions of the Fair Housing Act that pertain to senior housing.
2. Changes were made to enhance law enforcement, including making amendments to criminal penalties in section 901 of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 for violating the Fair Housing Act.
3. Changes were made to provide incentives for self-testing by lenders for discrimination under the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Credit Opportunity Act. See Title II, subtitle D of the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act, 1997, P.L. 104 - 208 (9/30/96).

Source: hud.gov