

# 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 2014 Commissioners' Conference  
Orlando, FL  
January 12-15, 2014
- NAHRO 2014 Legislative Conference  
Washington, DC  
March 9-12, 2014
- NAHRO Summer Conference  
Tampa, FL  
July 17-19, 2014



VIVIAN BRYANT, ESQ.  
PRESIDENT/CEO

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as required The Orlando Housing Authority management to make many changes as a result of the federal budget cuts. These changes have created significant stress, anxiety and adjustments. The Orlando Housing Authority is not alone in this storm...all housing authorities are impacted.

The Moving to Work (MTW) status has allowed the Orlando Housing Authority the flexibility to make changes. However, we have made some difficult decisions; those decisions have resulted in the reduction of staff and services. For example, the Admissions Department no longer see walk-in clients. This and other

required changes have frustrated both our families and staff. The staff continues to re-engineer the agency to streamline many of our processes and ways of doing business under these new funding restrictions.

As we work together to map new and more efficient ways of doing business, we are hopeful that it will become easier for all of us. This winter we want to rededicate ourselves to our core mission, to provide quality, safe and affordable housing to our customers, that's so the general public receive quality service, and our clients are able to maximize their individual potential.

I thank the staff and our clients for their help, cooperation and understanding while we strive to achieve our mission. We can and will all succeed together. Thank you for hanging in there with us! The great team of staff here at OHA, work tirelessly; double thanks to you. Together we can ....!!!

*"It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change."*

— Charles Darwin

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### Board of Commissioners' Meeting

The Orlando Housing Authority Board of Commissioners will hold its Board Meeting, Thursday, December 5, 2013 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.

# RESIDENTS PRESIDENTS THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON



Tuesday, November 19, 2013, the annual Orlando Housing Authority (OHA) Resident Association Presidents Thanksgiving Luncheon was held at the Ivey Lane Moving to Work (MTW) Resource Center. The event was attended by the current OHA Resident-Presidents. The attendees enjoyed an afternoon of socialization and team-building at the Thanksgiving Luncheon. The menu included a Turkey, all the trimmings, desserts and other food items prepared by the staff and residents.



**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!**

## THANKSGIVING POTLUCK LUNCHEON AT LORNA DOONE

The Lorna Doone Residents Association held its Thanksgiving Dinner for its residents Monday, November 18, 2013. The residents were able to socialize and enjoy a Turkey Potluck Luncheon together with all the trimmings and desserts.



## THANKSGIVING DINNER AT CITRUS SQUARE



The Citrus Square Resident Association in conjunction with the City Parks and Receptions held its annual Thanksgiving Dinner for the Citrus Square Apartment Residents November 15, 2013, . The event was well attended by Citrus Square Families, elderly and disabled residents, and also by staff from the Orlando Housing Authority, City Parks and Recreation, and District 1 Commissioner Jim Gray's Office. The event was a success as the attendees enjoyed a Traditional Thanksgiving meal.





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

## HUD Charges New York Housing Provider with Discriminating Against Resident with Disabilities who Need a Support Animal

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced today that it is charging the East River Housing Corporation in New York, NY, with violating the Fair Housing Act by denying a request from a tenant with disabilities to reside in her apartment with a medically-prescribed support animal. HUD’s charge alleges that East River employees ignored the woman’s many requests to keep her emotional support dog in her apartment and moved to evict her when she refused to get rid of the dog.

The Fair Housing Act requires housing providers to make reasonable accommodations in their rules, policies, practices, or services when needed to provide persons with disabilities an equal opportunity to use or enjoy a dwelling. This includes waiving pet limitation policies for persons who need emotional support animals.

“Support animals provide the comfort and stability that many people with disabilities need,” said Bryan Greene, HUD’s Acting Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity. “The Fair Housing Act requires housing providers to grant reasonable accommodations to persons with disabilities and HUD will continue to take action when they fail to comply with that obligation.”

HUD brings this charge on behalf of a tenant living in a 1672-unit housing cooperative owned by East River Housing Corporation. The tenant allegedly submitted a reasonable accommodation request to keep a dog in her apartment with a letter from her doctor explaining that she was disabled and needed a support animal to alleviate symptoms associated with her disabilities. Nonetheless, the East River Housing Corporation allegedly refused to grant the woman’s request. HUD’s charge further alleges that even after receiving multiple requests and documentation from multiple doctors, East River repeatedly told the woman to remove her support dog and eventually took action to evict her.

HUD's charge will be heard by a United States Administrative Law Judge unless any party to the charge elects to have the case heard in federal district court. If an administrative law judge finds after a hearing that discrimination has occurred, he may award damages to the woman for the harm caused her by the discrimination. The judge may also order injunctive relief and other equitable relief, as well as payment of attorney fees. In addition, the judge may impose fines in order to vindicate the public interest. If the matter is decided in federal court, the judge may also award punitive damages.

Persons who believe they have experienced discrimination may file a complaint by contacting HUD’s Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity at **(800) 669-9777** (voice) or **(800) 927-9275** (TTY). Housing discrimination complaints may also be filed by going to [www.hud.gov/fairhousing](http://www.hud.gov/fairhousing), or by downloading HUD’s free housing discrimination mobile application, which can be accessed through Apple devices, such as the iPhone, iPad, and iPod Touch.

Source: [hud.org](http://hud.org)