

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

- FAHRO Executive Director's Retreat
Miami, FL
May 7-9 2013
- PHADA Annual Convention and Exhibition
San Antonio, TX
May 19-22, 2013
- NAHRO 2013 Summer Conference
Denver, CO
July 18-20, 2013



VIVIAN BRYANT, ESQ.
PRESIDENT/CEO

SPRING

FORWARD

Spring symbolizes a season of refreshment and transformation. As we marvel in the beauty and resilience of nature, we must also reflect and examine our present circumstance. Regardless of how challenging it may be, we must carve a way to live our lives to its fullest potential. A fundamental element in climbing the ladder of success, is letting go of pain and mistakes of the past and aggressively working to obtain the goals we have set out for ourselves. In doing so we ignite the internal flame of ambition that will, in turn, become the fire that exudes excellence and gives us the peace and happiness we desire.

As the cloud of funding cuts due to sequestration looms over public service agencies throughout the nation, I am confident the Orlando Housing Authority (OHA) will weather the storm by working efficiently with the resources we have to make sure our families continue to receive the level of excellence they deserve and are accustomed to.

“Learn from the past, set vivid detailed goals for the future, and live in the only moment of time over which you have control: Now.”

It is hard to believe that on April 1 of this year, we entered into our third year of the Moving-To - Work (MTW) demonstration. With each passing day, our staff increases their level of commitment to improving the quality of life for our residents. The Orlando Housing Authority is working diligently to review and assess the strides we have made during this MTW program year. We are determined to take steps necessary to improve service delivery to our residents.

This spring, I am encouraged to “Spring Forward” like the flowers that know when it is time to bloom, whether it rains or not. Federal funding is to housing authorities is like rain is to blooming flowers. Sequestration is akin to a funding drought. Housing Authorities have to learn to bloom ... “any how” .

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Board of Commissioners' Meeting

The Orlando Housing Authority Board of Commissioners will hold its Board Meeting, Thursday, April 28, 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 Trip to The Tampa Aquarium (Part II)



Eleven (11) Griffin Park residents participated in an educational trip to the Tampa Aquarium Friday, March 15, 2013. The residents were able to see sharks in a natural coral reef setting with endangered sea turtles and moray eels. They walked down the **Wetlands Trail** exhibit past playful river otters, voracious alligators, free-flited birds, a 14-foot invasive Burmese Pythons and touch tanks with sting rays and starfish. After viewing the exhibits in the aquarium, the residents boarded the Wild Dolphin Cruise in which they were learned the history of the Tampa Bay Area and some of the 500 wild dolphins that call Tampa Bay home.



SCAM PREVENTION WORKSHOP

The Johnson Manor Resident Association held a Scam/Identity Theft Prevention Workshop from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the community room Thursday, March 14, 2013. The workshop was provided by Ms. Laura Lang, Community Relations Specialist/Senior Programs from the Orange County Sheriff's Office. Ms. Lang taught residents how to identify potential identity theft scams while shopping and walking in the community. She provided mock scenarios on how scams take

place with the purpose of stealing important documents from the victim. The demonstration included how scammers work in groups or teams to commit a crime without being noticed. The residents were also provided with the "File of Life" medical information magnet holder that can be placed on their refrigerator. The File of Life includes a medical information update form which residents includes a list their medical conditions and medications. In case of a medical emergency, first responders are able to access the information necessary to immediately stabilize the person while transporting them to a local hospital. The workshop was very informative. We thank the Orange County Sheriff's Office for providing the workshop.



A Letter From a Grateful Ivey Lane Homes Resident

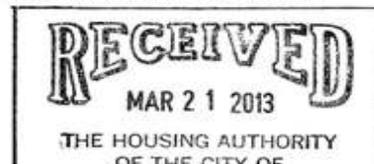
I have lived in Ivey Lane Home Apartments this month makes 1 year. My journey here was a tough one. I lost my well paying job of 9 ½ years where I made \$39k a year back in June 2010, I had just found out I was pregnant with my fourth child. I have worked my butt off since I was 17 and had not been without a job so I was devastated, needless to say I did not stay unemployed long even at 5 months pregnant I was determined and I found another job. Now do not get me wrong I was very thankful for the job but I was definitely not making the same amount of money I was making before. I had a hard time finding affordable housing, this caused me and my family to bounce from place to place and live with family members.

A friend of mine suggested I apply for public housing, which I did, and I thank God that I did. I received a phone call from Ivey Lane Home Apartments in February 2012 congratulating me for being approved. I was not too thrilled about the phone call I did not want to live in Ivey Lane Homes, I would have lived anywhere but Ivey Lane. The reason being was that on April 30th 1986 my life changed forever and it left an empty hole in my heart. My father Jimmy Brown Sr. was murdered in the back of Ivey Lane Homes Apartments. I still remember what happen as if it was yesterday and I just did not want to live in the same apartment complex where I lost my father. I remember my dad telling me and my little brother to get our bath and get dressed because he was taking us to the movies, he said he would be right back to get us but he never came home. We waited and waited my little brother went to sleep in the bedroom but I stayed on the couch and dozed off. It was late and there was a knock at the door and I jumped up it was my aunt and her boyfriend; I remember it was raining hard, my heart starting racing because I knew something was wrong. My aunt was crying and she told my grandma that "Jimmy was dead" my grandma did not believe it but I knew it was true and broke down.

My father was shot twice he ran a little ways and then collapsed right in the back of the complex. I had not been in Ivey Lane since. Over the years, I have heard and seen on the news the violence and the crime that plagued the complex. So you can understand why I did not want to live there. I spoke with Mr. Mack Thomas the property manager and explained the reason why I did not want to live in Ivey Lane. Mr. Thomas was so great he pretty much told me that I had to do some soul searching and find away to get through what happen to my father, he said he understood why I did not want to live in Ivey Lane. He also said that Ivey Lane Homes Apartments has changed over the years, he said that he cleaned the complex up and got many bad people out, he took pride in the way the complex is now. Of course, Mr. Thomas said it was my decision but before I decide, I should come and visit the complex to see for myself. For 2 weeks I visited the complex driving through, I would come in the morning before I went to work and in the evening after I got off just to see how the neighborhood was. What I saw was a typical neighborhood.

"Since living here I have not had any problems at all, this is our home and my family and I welcome and are grateful for the stability."

"I would like to thank Mr. Thomas for helping me. I would also like to thank the Orlando Housing Authority for having a program like this to help working families with affordable housing."



I called Mr. Thomas and asked when can I move in? Since living here I have not had any problems at all, this is our home and my family and I welcome and are grateful for the stability. I am so glad I took Mr. Thomas advice. I would like to thank Mr. Mack Thomas for helping me realize that I needed to get through my father's death in the complex and in doing that we found a home. I would also like to thank the Orlando Housing Authority for having a program like this to help working families with affordable housing.

Sincerely,

Tyreshia Brown



ORLANDO HOUSING AUTHORITY



390 N. BUMBY AVE
ORLANDO, FL 32803
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Fax: (407) 895-0820
TDD: (407) 894-9891
Relay #: 711

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

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

America, in every way, represents equality of opportunity for all persons. The rich diversity of its citizens and the spirit of unity that binds us all symbolize the principles of freedom and justice upon which this nation was founded. That is why it is extremely disturbing when new immigrants, minorities, families with children and persons with disabilities are denied the housing of their choice because of illegal discrimination.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) enforces the Fair Housing Act and the other federal laws that prohibit discrimination and the intimidation of people in their homes, apartment buildings and condominium developments—and nearly all housing transactions, including the rental and sale of housing and the provision of mortgage loans.

Equal access to rental housing and homeownership opportunities is the cornerstone of this nation's federal housing policy. Landlords who refuse to rent or sell homes to people based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, or disability are violating federal law and HUD will vigorously pursue them.

Housing discrimination is not only illegal, it contradicts in every way the principles of freedom and opportunity we treasure as Americans. The Department of Housing and Urban Development is committed to ensuring that everyone is treated equally when searching a place to call home.

Source: hud.gov



April 25, 2013
10:00 a.m.-12:p.m.
Top Talent

May 23, 2012
10:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.
Manpower

TRAINING LOCATION
Ivey Lane Resource Center
24 Fanfair Avenue
Orlando, FL 32811

For more information about the training program, contact the OHA Section 3 Coordination Office at 407-895-3300 x4003, x4008 or x6012.

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

The majority of child abuse cases stemmed from situations and conditions that can be preventable when community programs and systems are engaged and supportive.

Let us show our support!!