

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 Annual Convention and Exhibition
 San Antonio, TX
 May 19-22, 2013
- NAHRO 2013 Summer Conference
 Denver, CO
 July 18-20, 2013
- PHADA 2013 Legislative Forum
 Washington, D.C.
 September 8-10, 2013



VIVIAN BRYANT, ESQ.
 PRESIDENT/CEO

We take time to salute Mothers around the world throughout the month of May. Mothers serve as our biggest cheerleaders; they motivate us to reach our highest potential and encourage us at every low point to give maximum effort to worthwhile projects. They are the ultimate multitaskers, juggling professional/work and home life, all with an effortless grace. Mothers give us tough love at times so we are equipped to handle what the world throws our way. As I reflect on the lessons I have learned from my mother, I am grateful as I have passed these principles to my daughter and to see her instilling these same values in my grandchildren, the feeling is indescribable! So this month, we salute the mothers, grandmothers, aunts and unsung heroes of our community for embodying the village that it takes to raise a child.



Here at the Orlando Housing Authority (OHA), we in conjunction with the University Of Central Florida (UCF), have just completed the interview process of our participants of the Moving-to-Work program. The interviews will gather information regarding their experience with the MTW Resource Center Program. Our staff has worked relentlessly to insure the success of clients involved in the Orlando Housing Authority's Moving to Work Program.

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Board of Commissioners' Meeting

The Orlando Housing Authority Board of Commissioners will hold its Board Meeting, Thursday, May 16, 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.

Bingo Game at Johnson Manor Apartments



The Johnson Manor Apartments Residents participated in a Bingo Game Thursday, April 18, 2013 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The event was hosted by District 2, City of Orlando Commissioner Tony Ortiz. The residents were treated to pizza, Bingo and prizes. Some of the prizes were household items donated by City Commissioner Ortiz' Office. The following City of Orlando and Orlando Housing Authority staff attended this activity: Ana Cruz, Assistant to City Commissioner Ortiz, Orlando Police Department Liaison Officer/Crime Prevention Eddie Rosado, Orlando Housing Authority (OHA) Johnson Manor Site Manager Maria Cintron and OHA Resident Opportunities and Supportive Services Service Coordinator Joe De Jesus.



Hosted by City Commissioner Tony Ortiz



"Youth fades; love droops, the leaves of friendship fall; A mother's secret hope outlives them all."

-Oliver Wendell Holmes, physician and poet

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!!

Reeves Terrace Spring Break Bash

The Reeves Terrace Resident Association held its Annual Spring Break Bash Wednesday, March 27, 2013. The residents enjoyed a barbecue and had the opportunity to get to know their neighbors. The children from Reeves Terrace enjoyed playing in a bounce house and a slider. There was barbecued food, cotton candy, pop corn and other delicious foods. The OHA Commissioner, Brunilda Alfaro, attended the event, donated the food and also assisted the Resident Association throughout the day. Pastor Jim Berlau of South Street Ministries provided a gas generator for the day; the generator was a necessary component for the pop corn and cotton candy machines, and for the bounce houses.





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 ISSUES NOTICE ON ASSISTANCE ANIMALS AND REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

On April 30, 2013, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) issued a notice reaffirming that housing providers must provide reasonable accommodations to persons with disabilities who require assistance animals. The “Notice on Service Animals and Assistance Animals for People with Disabilities in Housing and HUD-Funded Programs” discusses how the Fair Housing Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) intersect regarding the use of service or assistance animals by persons with disabilities.

The Fair Housing Act prohibits landlords from discriminating based on disability, race, color, national origin, religion, sex and familial status. The ADA prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in employment, transportation, public accommodations, communications and state and local government activities. Both laws contain provisions which address the use of service or assistance animals by people with disabilities. While the Fair Housing Act covers nearly all types of housing, some types of housing, such as public housing, are covered by both laws.

“The vital importance of assistance animals in reducing barriers, promoting independence and improving the quality of life for people with disabilities should not be underestimated, particularly in the home,” said John Trasvina, HUD Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity. “Disability-related complaints, including those that involve assistance animals, are the most common discrimination complaint we receive. This notice will help housing providers better understand and meet their obligation to grant reasonable accommodations to people with disabilities that require assistance animals to fully use and enjoy their housing.”

HUD’s new notice explains housing providers’ obligations under the Fair Housing Act, including the requirement to provide reasonable accommodations to people with disabilities who require assistance animals. Pet restrictions cannot be used to deny or limit housing to people with disabilities who require the use of an assistance animal because of their disability. Housing providers must grant reasonable accommodations in such instances, in accordance with the law. The guidance also describes the Department of Justice’s revised definition “service animal” under the ADA, as well as housing providers’ obligations when multiple nondiscrimination laws apply.

The Americans with Disabilities Act requires equal access for people with disabilities using trained service dogs in public accommodations and government facilities. Under the Fair Housing Act, housing providers have a further obligation to accommodate people with disabilities who, because of their disability, require trained service dogs or other types of assistance animals to perform tasks, provide emotional support, or alleviate the effects of their disabilities.

HUD’s and the Department of Justice’s Joint Statement on Reasonable Accommodations provides additional information regarding housing providers’ obligations to provide reasonable accommodations. The Department of Justice has also published a fact sheet on service animals and the ADA.

Source: hud.gov

Did You Know...

That an assistance animal is not a pet? It is an animal that works, provides assistance, or performs tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability, or provides emotional support that alleviates one or more identified symptoms or effects of a person’s disability. Assistance animals perform many disability-related functions, including but not limited to, guiding individuals who are blind or have low vision, alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to sound, providing protection or rescue assistance, pulling a wheelchair, fetching items, alerting persons to impending seizures, or providing emotional support to persons with disabilities who have a disability-related need for such support.