

# 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

- NAHRO Summer Conference  
Tampa , FL  
July 17-19, 2014
- FAHRO Annual Convention  
August 12-14, 2014  
Orlando, FL
- PHADA Legislative Forum  
Washington, D.C.  
September 7-9, 2014
- NAHRO National Conference  
Baltimore, MD  
October 16-18, 2014  
July 17-19, 2014

### Inside this issue:

Highlights from the Desk	1
Calendar of Upcoming Events	1
Lorna Doone's Barbeque	2
Residents Presidents at the SERC-NAHRO Conference	2
Board of Commissioners Meeting	2
Father's Day Celebration	3
Residents' Trip to Ft. Mose	
Fair Housing Corner	4



VIVIAN BRYANT, ESQ.  
 PRESIDENT/CEO

## HISTORY OF PUBLIC HOUSING 5th Edition

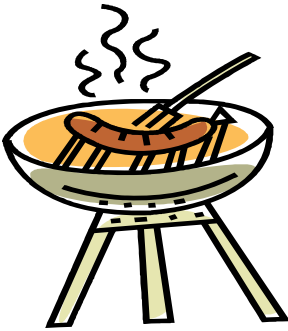
I am fascinated by the history of public housing in the United States. In the January 2014's edition on the President/CEO Report, we learned that the concept of public housing began in the late nineteenth century. There was a need to build affordable housing for ship builders during the period when war ships were built. Two housing programs responded to this need: The Public Works Administration (PWA) and the United States Housing Act of 1937 was a major legislation: (1) it created the United States Housing Authority to provide management, financial and technical assistance, and (2) it authorized the States to pass enabling legislation to create housing authorities. The One program provided low interest loans and the other provided funds for the redevelopment of communities including the clearance of slum and blight. The first two (2) public housing developments in Florida were Durkeeville in Jacksonville and Liberty Square in Miami. We see the beginnings of the separation of the Departments of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development: the public housing side and the community development side. During the 1920s and 30s, the architectural themes included the Super Bloc plan in original street grids were abandoned when vehicular traffic reached the public housing sites. There was no vehicular traffic on site. Common areas included green space and playgrounds.

Some information on the next phase was reprinted from the Griffin Park Historic District *National Register of Historic Places* Nomination Form prepared by Paul J. Birkhead and Gary Goodwin of the Bureau of Historic Preservation.

"...In Florida, the cities of Jacksonville, St. Petersburg and Tampa were the first municipalities to create housing authorities under the USHA of 1937. At that time, as Orlando's population was nearing 40,000, the City determined it was necessary to establish a housing authority in order to accommodate the growing housing needs. The City Council of Orlando, under the authority of Mayor Samuel Y. Way, appointed five commissioners and created the Orlando Housing Authority on January 12, 1938 (Birkhead 1994:Section 8, Pages 3-4).

The Orlando Housing Authority Board's first action item was to conduct an evaluation of the City's poor and blighted residential areas. The results of the survey showed that of the 2,461 identified homes, 2,070 remained in substandard condition. Many of these homes were located in an area known as "Jonestown", which was sited between Greenwood Cemetery and a growing white neighborhood (Birkhead 1994:Section 8, Page 4). Local newspaper articles from 1938 indicate that black property owners opposed a "municipal slum clearance" program proposed in the Jonestown area (Orlando Reporter September 1, 1938:n.p.). However, the effort to improve Jonestown became a priority in early 1939, when a home was destroyed by fire and the owner wanted to rebuild it. Much of the white citizenry was against the reconstruction of the burned residence, and ultimately wanted to clear out all the inadequate housing in Jonestown. At this time, the housing authority began to eliminate the City's dilapidated and unsanitary living quarters and move the black residents out of the area into neighborhoods west of downtown (Birkhead 1994:Section 8, Page 4). "

## Lorna Doone's Barbecue



Thursday, July 3, 2014, the Lorna Doone Resident Association held the "July 3" Barbecue in celebration of Independence Day in the Lorna Doone grounds next to the pavilion. Lorna Doone residents donated food items, some of which were grilled by Lorna Doone resident

Mr. Salvador Martinez and Mr. Wendell Mars. The Lorna Doone Resident Association officers were present at the activity providing assistance, guidance and support throughout the day. The residents enjoyed an afternoon of socialization, music and shared a congregated meal. The event was a success and the residents are looking forward to the next Lorna Doone activity.



## Residents Presidents at the SERC-NAHRO Conference



From June 15 through the 17, 2014 Orlando Housing Authority's Resident Association Presidents from various public housing sites attended the SERC-NAHRO Conference held at the Orlando Marriot World Center Hotel and Convention Center. The Resident Association Presidents received information regarding on the following topics: the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) Conversion Program, Section 8 Program updates the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Subsidized Multifamily Housing, Public Housing Agencies Budgeting, Accounting and Financial Reporting, the latest information regarding Capital Fund Rules and the Real Estate Assessment Center (REAC) updates. The Presidents were also able to network and receive information from various exhibitors present at the conference. The three-day conference benefited the housing authority by providing up-to-date training and information.

### Board of Commissioners' Meeting

The Orlando Housing Authority Board of Commissioners will hold its Board Meeting, Thursday, July 17, 2014 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.

## Father's Day Celebration at Johnson Manor



Friday, June 20, 2014, the Johnson Manor Resident Association held its annual Father's Day Luncheon/Dinner and party in the Activity Room from 2:00 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. The residents enjoyed an afternoon of music, dance, food and entertainment.

Johnson Manor resident, Mr. Rafael "PaPin" Batista Gonzales, sang for the residents during the activity. District 2 City Commissioner, Tony Ortiz, his Aide, Ms. Ana Cruz, and Orlando Police Department Liaison, Officer Mr. Eddie Rosado, attended the event. Commissioner Ortiz donated food for the celebration.

Metro Orlando Hispanic CERT President Mr. Sergio Padilla also attended the activity and donated food to the residents. The activity was a success as the residents socialized, enjoyed music and a congregate meal.



## Residents' Trip to Fort Mose St. Augustine



Friday, June 13, 2014, residents from the Orlando Housing Authority Resident Associations traveled to St. Augustine, Florida. This year, the residents visited the Fort Mose Historic State Park, the site of the first legally sanctioned free African settlement. In 1738, the Spanish governor of Florida chartered the settlement of Gracia Real de Santa Teresa de Mose, or Fort Mose for short, as a settlement for those fleeing slavery from the English colonies in the Carolinas. Over the next 25 years, Fort Mose and Spanish Saint Augustine became a sanctuary for Africans seeking liberation from the tyranny of English slavery.

Fort Mose has been recognized for its national significance in commemorating the history of the United States. In 1994 the site was designated as a National Historic Landmark and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 2009 the National Park Service

named Fort Mose as a precursor site on the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom.

Although there are no remains of the earth and wooden structures, visitors can still view the land where the settlement once stood. Stroll down the sundrenched boardwalk and imagine life in the eighteenth century. The residents were able to watch a 15-minute video informing them about the historical facts regarding Fort Mose, were able to see the excavated artifacts from the eighteenth century exhibited in the Fort Mose museum, and were able to walk through the historical site.

In celebration of Father's Day which fell on June 15, 2014, all fathers attending the trip received a "Happy Father's Day" Medallion from the Orlando Housing Authority.





ORLANDO HOUSING AUTHORITY



390 N. BUMBY AVE  
ORLANDO, FL 32803  
Telephone: (407) 895-3300  
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

HUD No. 14-067

Elena Gaona

(202) 708-0685

<http://www.hud.gov/news/index.cfm>

FOR RELEASE

Tuesday

June 10, 2014

## HUD AND CONNECTICUT CITY AND HOUSING AUTHORITY REACH AGREEMENT SETTLING CLAIMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST AFRICAN AMERICANS, HISPANICS, AND FAMILIES

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced today that it has reached agreements with the City of Ansonia, CT, and the Ansonia Housing Authority (AHA) in New Haven County, settling allegations that the City and the housing authority discriminated against African Americans, Hispanics, and families with children when they demolished and later refused to rebuild units at Riverside Apartments it had previously agreed to. Riverside Apartments is a former HUD subsidized, low-income public housing complex.

"These agreements will help ensure that former public housing residents in Ansonia and the surrounding area, including minority households and families with children, have access to much needed affordable housing," said Dave Ziaya, HUD's Acting Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity. "HUD will continue to work with housing authorities and local governments to create greater housing opportunities for low-income individuals and families."

In June 2012, AHA received an approval letter from HUD to demolish the aging complex. HUD approved the demolition on condition that the housing authority would rebuild 48 units and that residents would have the right to return following redevelopment. However, AHA has since refused to rebuild the units.

The agreements settle two complaints that were filed with HUD by a former resident of Riverside who was relocated when the housing authority demolished five buildings on the property. The former resident alleged that most of the displaced residents were African-Americans, Hispanics, and families with children. The specific complaint against the housing authority alleged that it discriminated when it demolished the buildings and then reneged on its commitment to rebuild 48 units on the same site. The complaint against the city alleged that the former mayor publicly opposed the redevelopment of the property and interfered with plans to rebuild units on the site. This was alleged to violate The Fair Housing Act, which makes it unlawful to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, or familial status, and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance.

Under the terms of agreement one and agreement two, the housing authority will complete construction of the first replacement unit within three years. The city will make an official statement of support for the redevelopment of the property and appoint a building committee to oversee the redevelopment effort. City and housing authority staff and board members will also receive fair housing training.

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