

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

- SERC-NAHRO Annual Conference
Orlando, FL
June 15-17, 2014
- NAHRO Summer Conference
Tampa, FL
July 17-19, 2014
- PHADA Legislative Forum
Washington, D.C.
September 7-9, 2014
- NAHRO National Conference
Baltimore, MD
October 16-18, 2014

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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). "

Goodwill Orlando Job Connection Workshop



Tuesday, April 29, 2014, the Moving to Work Resource Center held the Goodwill Orlando Job Connection Workshop at the Ivey Lane MTW Resource Center from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Ms. Neemah Barefield, Employment Specialist from the Goodwill Orlando Job Connection Center, provided an interactive workshop with the attendees which included, first impressions, finding employment, the application process and interviewing. Ms. Iris Diaz, the MTW Job Recruiter, gave attendees job preparedness tips and an overview of resources available for job applicants.



MOVING TO WORK ANNOUNCEMENT

The Orlando Housing Authority (OHA) is seeking public input on the Moving to Work (MTW) Plan for FY 2015 – 2016 (Year 5). The Plan describes OHA's Moving to Work (MTW) Program activities designed to (1) increase self-sufficiency among families served, (2) reduce costs and achieve greater cost effectiveness in Federal expenditures, and (3) increase housing choices for low-income families. The Plan delineates implementation strategies and timeframes for proposed and approved activities and uses of MTW funds for the period of April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016.

The public comment period will begin Monday, June 16, 2014 and end Thursday, July 17, 2014 at the conclusion of the public hearing. The Public Hearing will be held Thursday, July 17, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. at the OHA's Administration Office, 390 N. Bumby Avenue, Orlando, Florida 32803. This is the last day the OHA Board of Commissioners will receive verbal and/or written comments on the Plan.

A copy of the MTW Plan for Year FY 2016 (Year 5) will be available for review commencing Monday, June 16, 2014, on the OHA website at www.orl-oha.org and at the addresses, dates/times listed below.

Orlando Housing Authority
390 N. Bumby Avenue, Orlando, FL, 32803
Monday through Friday
10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Sanford Housing Authority
94 Castle Brewer Court, Sanford, FL 32771
Monday through Thursday
10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Persons requiring transportation and/or special accommodations to participate in the public hearing should call the OHA at (407) 895-3300, ext. 1004 before 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 16, 2014. Spanish language translation will be provided upon request.

Public participation in the process is encouraged. Attendance at the public hearing is not mandatory. All oral and/or written comments submitted before or at the public hearing will be considered. No comments will be considered after the public hearing.

Mother's Day Event at Johnson Manor



Friday, May 9, 2014, the Johnson Manor Resident Association held its annual Mother's Day Dinner and party in the Activity Room from 2:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The residents enjoyed an afternoon of music, dance, food and entertainment provided by Johnson Manor resident, Mr. Rafael Batista Gonzalez sang for the residents. The event was attended by District 2 Commissioner Tony Ortiz's Aide, Mrs. Ana Cruz. Also in attendance was Mr. Eddie Rosado, Orlando Police Department (OPD) Liaison, and Mr. Sergio Padilla, President of the Metro Orlando Hispanic CERT. Mr. Padilla donated food bags to the Johnson Manor Residents.



Board of Commissioners' Meeting

The Orlando Housing Authority Board of Commissioners will hold its Board Meeting, Thursday, June 19, 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.



ORLANDO HOUSING AUTHORITY



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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. 14-057
Elena Gaona
(202) 708-0685

FOR RELEASE
Tuesday
May 27, 2014

HUD ANNOUNCES ALTERNATIVE ACCESSIBILITY STANDARD FOR FEDERALLY FUNDED CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Action allows developers to use single design standard to meet federal requirements

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced today that it is permitting developers of federally funded construction projects to use an alternative design standard to meet the accessibility requirements under Section 504 of *the Rehabilitation Act of 1973*. With a few exceptions, developers may use the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) 2010 Standards* (2010 Standards) for accessible design as an alternative to the *Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS)* when undertaking new construction or alterations to existing structures on or after May 23, 2014.

Section 504 requires that programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance be readily accessible to persons with disabilities, including construction projects. Many of the projects that are subject to HUD's Section 504 regulation and UFAS, however, are also subject to ADA requirements for state and local governments. When both accessibility standards apply, it was previously necessary for recipients to determine on a section-by-section basis which afforded greater accessibility and meet that.

With issuance of the notice, HUD permits fund recipients to use the 2010 Standards, except for specific provisions identified in the notice, as an alternative to UFAS until HUD formally revises its Section 504 regulation. HUD is excepting some provisions of the 2010 Standards because those provisions provide a lower level of accessibility than is currently required under UFAS and HUD's Section 504 regulation.

"This action allows HUD-funded entities the option to design and build using a single accessibility standard, with some adjustments, to meet requirements under both laws," said Dave Ziaya, HUD's Acting Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity. "We believe these streamlined federal standards will help ensure the production of housing and facilities that are open and accessible to persons with disabilities."

The notice will remain in effect until HUD formally revises its Section 504 implementing regulation.

Source: hud.org