

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

- Purpose Built Conference
Charlotte, NC
September 29–Oct 1, 2014
- Community Trip to Houston
Houston, TX.
October 7-8, 2014
- NAHRO National Conference
Baltimore, MD
October 16-18, 2014
- OHA's Annual Volunteer
Appreciation Luncheon
October 16, 2014



VIVIAN BRYANT, ESQ.
PRESIDENT/CEO

HISTORY OF PUBLIC HOUSING 6th 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.

"...During the 1939 Legislative session, \$800 million were set aside for the nation's public housing. Congressman Joe Hendricks requested for his district, which included Orlando, to receive funding for housing projects. However, the Congressman did stipulate that a black housing project would only be funded if a similar project was constructed for the City's low income white residents (Birkhead 1994:Section 8, Page 4). Common for the time period, housing authorities throughout the country were establishing separate public housing projects for Caucasians, African-American, and Hispanic residents (Housing Authority of Tampa 1937-39:November 22, 1937). Although some major cities were experimenting with full integration, over 60 percent of the housing projects in 1955 were completely segregated (Abrams 1955:306-310). The question of integration was left solely to local authorities that were required to follow "community patterns and trends."

Through the United States Housing Act (USHA) program, Orlando's initial public housing project was constructed west of downtown. The development was bounded by Murphy Street, Division Avenue, Avondale Avenue, and Carter Street. The housing authority purchased or condemned the properties in this area, occupied by poor, black families, and the homes were subsequently demolished. The City's first low-rent housing development was called "Griffin Park," in memory of "Uncle" Charles Griffin, an ex-slave who live in the Jonestown neighborhood (Birkhead 1994:Section 8, Pages 4-5)."

Inside this issue:

Highlights from the Desk	1
Calendar of Upcoming Events	1
Board of Commissioners Meeting	1
Reeves Fun Day	2
Unveiling of the Playground Relocation Plan For Citrus Square	2
SERC Cares Debutes in Orlando	3
Fair Housing Corner	4

Board of Commissioners' Meeting

The Orlando Housing Authority Board of Commissioners will hold its Board Meeting, Thursday, September 18, 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 6101.

Reeves Fun Day



On Thursday, July 31, 2014 the Reeves Terrace Resident Association held its annual Family Fun Day. Activities available for the children included a water slide, and an inflatable obstacle course. Carluchin the clown provided face painting, outdoor games and a bubble machine. The children enjoyed popcorn, snacks and an afternoon of fun activities. Orlando Housing Authority staff, volunteers from South Street Ministry and resident volunteers assisted with the activity.



Unveiling of the Playground Renovation Plan for Citrus Square



On Thursday, July 24, 2014 District 1 Commissioner Jim Gray along with President/CEO of the Orlando Housing Authority, Ms. Vivian Bryant, unveiled the plans for the Citrus Square playground renovation. The City of Orlando Parks and Recreation, and Orlando Housing Authority staff was present at the ceremony. The goal of the plan is to renovate the playground, basketball court and build a new pavilion for the children at Citrus Square Apartments.



SERC Cares Debutes In Orlando

Orlando Charity, Pathlight HOME, Selected As First Beneficiary



To show SERC really does care, SERC-NAHRO President Ailrick Young announced a new initiative this spring called “SERC Cares.” To kick off the initiative, Lillian Stringer from Tampa Housing Authority, coordinated the first altruistic effort.

Young said, “This initiative will impact charities in cities the Association visits.” He added, “Housing Authorities make positive impacts in the lives of those they serve in their own communities.”

Orlando’s Pathlight Home Economic Development Corporation was chosen to receive SERC Care’s first donation. All SERC Annual Conference attendees were asked to bring one or two items to fill 100 gift bags, including—towels, washcloths, sheets, pillow cases, gift cards, laundry soap, lamps, clocks, rugs, dish drainers, shower curtains, toiletries of all kinds, shampoo, deodorants, razors, toothbrushes,

toothpaste, soap-holders, pens, pencils, notebooks, paper, silverware, paper towels, paper plates, napkins, cups, and dishes.

Pathlight Home, established in 1992, strives to raise the economic, educational and social levels of low income residents in the Orlando area. Since that time, this organization has developed over 560 units of affordable housing for single, disabled homeless persons – a group rarely assisted.

As an additional courtesy, on behalf of SERC Cares, SERC-NAHRO sponsored a vendor table for the charity. Special thanks to Orlando Housing Authority President/CEO Vivian Bryant for her assistance and all those who were instrumental in launching and carrying out SERC’s new initiative.

— Reprinted from *SERCulator Summer 2014*



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. 14-089
Elena Gaona
(202) 708-0685

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

FOR RELEASE
Wednesday
July 23, 2014

HUD AND NEW HAMPSHIRE LANDLORDS SETTLE ALLEGATIONS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM

WASHINGTON— The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced today agreements with the owners and managers of two Berlin, New Hampshire properties, settling allegations that they engaged in housing discrimination when they refused to rent to a woman who was a victim of domestic violence.

The Fair Housing Act makes it unlawful to discriminate in the sale or rental of housing because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, or familial status.

"No woman should be denied housing based on her status as a domestic violence survivor," said Gustavo Velasquez, HUD's Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity. "HUD remains committed to ensuring and promoting fair housing opportunities for women and men alike."

The agreement is the result of two complaints filed by a woman with HUD in December 2013. In the first complaint, the woman alleged that TKB Properties and the New England Family Housing Management Organization refused to renew her lease because of police visits responding to her domestic violence-related 911 calls. The second complaint arose when the woman was searching for another home after her lease was not renewed, alleging that landlord Michael Warren refused to rent her an apartment based on the previous domestic violence-related police visits.

Under the terms of agreement one and agreement two, the woman will receive \$13,550 from the three respondents. The landlords have agreed to participate in fair housing training and undergo monitoring by HUD. TKB Properties and New England Family Housing also will revise their policies and leases for all HUD-subsidized properties to comply with the Violence Against Women Act and HUD's regulations providing protection for victims of domestic violence in public and federally-funded housing.

The woman was represented by New Hampshire Legal Assistance, which receives funding through HUD's Fair Housing Initiatives Program to assist people who believe they have been victims of housing discrimination.

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 at 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