

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 2014 Commissioners' Conference
Orlando, FL
January 12-15, 2014
- HDLI Spring Conference
Washington, D.C.
May 15-16, 2014
- NAHRO 2014 Legislative Conference
Washington, DC
March 9-12, 2014



VIVIAN BRYANT, ESQ.
PRESIDENT/CEO

An Orlando Sentinel Newspaper published an article regarding the site planning for Griffin Park Apartments, Orlando Housing Authority's oldest public housing complex. The article focused on the impact of the I-4 and 408 Expressways that completely surround Griffin Park. While researching the history of Griffin Park to answer the Reporter's questions, I found information regarding the History of Public Housing in a report prepared for the Orlando Housing Authority by Janus Research in June 2001. I found the information thoroughly fascinating. I decided to share excerpts from the Janus Report in a series of reprinted excerpts.

"...The move for a federal housing program had its beginnings in the late nineteenth century and was sparked by the substandard living conditions of workers in tenements in major cities such as New York. A fear of government involvement in the real estate market fueled the opposition to such a program, and it was not until the 1910s that the Federal government initiated actions that impacted the housing situation although not specifically addressing the issue. In 1918, the first federal housing initiative was undertaken when housing shortages were believed to be impacting the war effort. This led to the passage of legislation that authorized the United States Shipping Board to initiate housing programs at shipbuilding centers. Although this was considered necessary for national defense, it was nonetheless, controversial because it was considered by the opposition as a "stepping stone" toward permanent legislation. Indeed, the initiation of this law did provide the beginnings of a federal program that culminated in two substantial housing programs, the Public Works Administration (PWA) in 1933 and the United States Housing Act of 1937 (also known as the Wagner-Steagall Act). The PWA Limited-Dividend Housing Program authorized low-interest loans to limited dividend housing corporations (Robinson et al 1999: Volume II, Page 13). In February of 1934, the Public Works Administration Limited-Dividend Housing Program was suspended and the Direct-Built Housing Program was established, in which the Public Works Administration would acquire the land, let contracts for slum clearance and construction, and own and operated the completed housing (Robinson et al 1999: Volume II, Page 18). In Florida, two Public Works Administration projects were completed: Durkeeville in Jacksonville and Liberty Square in Miami."

It is ironic that I came to Orlando from Miami where I worked all around Liberty Square. It is like running into an old friend.

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Board of Commissioners' Meeting

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

COMMISSIONER SHEEHAN'S BIKE GIVE-AWAY



On Monday, December 23, 2013 District 4 Commissioner Patty Sheehan held the 12th Annual Wheels 4 Kids Program donating 94 bicycles and protective helmets to children ages 5 to 15 from the Reeves Terrace community. The event was attended by Orlando Housing Authority's President/CEO Ms. Vivian Bryant, the Orange County Fire Department and the Orlando Police Department. The program was started by Commissioner Sheehan in 2002 as the children no longer have a bus system to take them to school.



JOHNSON MANOR'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS EVENT



On Friday, December 13, 2013 the Johnson Manor held its annual end of the year Christmas event. The residents enjoyed an afternoon of music, food and gifts. The event was attended by Commissioner Tony Ortiz' Aide Ms. Ana Cruz and Mr. Sergio Padilla of Metro Orlando Hispanic Cert, Inc. Ms. Cruz assisted with bringing donated catered food by Commissioner Tony Ortiz. Mr. Padilla donated individualized gifts for the 40 residents at Johnson Manor. The Johnson Manor association recognized Johnson Manor resident Mr. Gonzalez who always provides the entertainment for the Johnson Manor activities by presenting him with a certificate of appreciation. The event was a success as the residents socialized and shared a congregate Christmas Dinner.



HAMPTON PARK DECEMBER TO REMEMBER



On Thursday, December 12, 2013 the Hampton Park Resident Association held its December to Remember Celebration from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The residents enjoyed a relaxing afternoon filled with positive socialization which included light holiday music and sharing a congregate lunch with food donated by the residents. OHA staff members Ms. Crawford and Mr. De Jesus and on site Manager Ms. Collado were present on hand to assist with the activity.





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 13-0916
Gloria Shanahan
(305) 520-5030

FOR RELEASE
Wednesday
September 25, 2013

HUD AWARDS \$2.9 MILLION TO FLORIDA TO FIGHT HOUSING DISCRIMINATION

MIAMI - The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development today awarded \$2,998,306 to six fair housing organizations in Florida in an effort to reduce housing discrimination. This funding is part of \$38.3 million HUD awarded today to 95 fair housing organizations and other non-profit agencies in 38 states.

Funded through HUD's *Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP)*, these grants will help enforce the Fair Housing Act through investigation and testing of alleged discriminatory practices. In addition, the funds will educate housing providers, local governments and potential victims of housing discrimination about their rights and responsibilities under the Fair Housing Act.

"Ending housing discrimination requires that we support the law of the land and protect the housing rights of individuals and families who would be denied those rights," stated HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan. "Ensuring and promoting Fair Housing practices lies at the core of HUD's mission and these grants enable community groups all over the nation to help families who are denied equal access to housing."

Ed Jennings, Jr., the HUD Southeast Regional Administrator, added: "No one should be denied the opportunity to live where they want because of how they look, their faith, whether they have children or because they have a disability. These grants will help us continue our efforts to educate the public and housing industry about their housing rights and responsibilities."

Source: hud.org