

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

- Moving to Work Steering Committee
 Washington, D. C.
 March 10, 2015
- NAHRO 2015 Legislative Conference
 Washington, D. C.
 March 15-18, 2015
- PHADA 2015 Annual Convention and Exhibition
 San Francisco, CA
 May 3-6, 2015



VIVIAN BRYANT, ESQ.
 PRESIDENT/CEO

Black History Month is a month set aside to learn, honor, and celebrate the achievements of black men and women throughout history. Since its inception, Black History Month has always been celebrated in February.

The precursor to Black History Month was created in 1926 in the United States, when historian Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History announced the second week of February to be "Negro History Week." This week was chosen because it coincided with the birthday of Abraham Lincoln on February 12 and of Frederick Douglass on February 14, both of which dates Black communities had celebrated together since the late 19th century.

From the event's initial phase, primary emphasis was placed on encouraging the coordinated teaching of the history of American blacks in the nation's public schools. The first Negro History Week was met with a lukewarm response, gaining the cooperation of the Departments of Education of the states of North Carolina, Delaware, and West Virginia as well as the city school administrations of Baltimore and Washington, D.C.. Despite this far from universal acceptance, the event was nevertheless regarded by Woodson as "one of the most fortunate steps ever taken by the Association," and plans for a repeat of the event on an annual basis continued apace.

At the time of Negro History Week's launch Woodson contended that the teaching of black history was essential to ensure the physical and intellectual survival of the race within broader society:

"If a race has no history, it has no worthwhile tradition, it becomes a negligible factor in the thought of the world, and it stands in danger of being exterminated. The American Indian left no continuous record. He did not appreciate the value of tradition; and where is he today? The Hebrew keenly appreciated the value of tradition, as is attested by the Bible itself. In spite of worldwide persecution, therefore, he is a great factor in our civilization."

By 1929 *The Journal of Negro History* was able to note that with only two exceptions officials with the State Departments of Educations of "every state with considerable Negro population" had made the event known to that state's teachers and distributed official literature associated with the event." Churches also played a significant role in the distribution of literature in association with Negro History Week during this initial interval, with the pages of the mainstream and black press aiding in the publicity effort.

Negro History Week was met with enthusiastic response; it prompted the creation of black history clubs, an increase in interest among teachers, and interest from progressive whites. Negro History Week grew in popularity throughout the following decades, with mayors across the United States endorsing it as a holiday.

The expansion of Black History Week to Black History Month was first proposed by the leaders of the Black United Students at Kent State University in February 1969. The first celebration of the

Black History Month took place at Kent State one year later, in February 1970. In 1976 as part of the United States Bicentennial, the informal expansion of Negro History Week to Black History Month was officially recognized by the U.S. government. President Gerald Ford spoke in regards to this, urging Americans to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."

Source: Wikipedia

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The Links, Inc. Christmas Event



The Orlando Chapter Links, Incorporated held their Christmas Event for thirteen (13) families at the Orlando Housing Authority's Ivey Lane Homes. The event was held Wednesday, December 17, 2014 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The Links, Incorporated is an international non-profit organization of professional women who are dedicated to the sustainability of the economically disadvantaged. A traditional Christmas dinner was served to entire families; gifts were distributed to children in the households. The event ensured that the children in these families received a holiday gift.



January Events at Lorna Doone

Second Food Bank of Central Florida Food Box Give-Away

The Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida with the assistance of the Orlando Housing Authority staff and Lorna Doone resident volunteers gave out food boxes to the Lorna Doone community. The event was held Monday, January 12, 2015. It started at 4:05 p.m. The event was a big success; forty (40) residents received a food box.



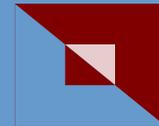
Game Day Activity



Eight (8) residents from Lorna Doone Apartments attended the "Game Day" activity from 12 noon to 1:00 p.m.. This fun activity occurred on Thursday, January 29, 2015 in the Fourth Floor Activity Room. The residents played Bingo; the winners received gifts purchased by the Lorna Doone Resident Association. The "Game Day" activity currently serves as a medium for elderly and disabled residents to socialize and enhance their cognitive skills while participating in a fun filled activity. The Lorna Doone residents expressed they are motivated to continue meeting once per week for Game Day.



JUDGE TANYA DAVIS WILSON



The Orlando Chapter of The Links, Inc. held "Step For Family Success" dinner workshop for 12 Orlando Housing Authority Ivey Lane Homes MTW residents. Youths from Jack and Jill of America helped elementary school-age children with their home work while the adults and young adults enjoyed the workshop. The highlight of this night was the Motivational speaker, Orange County Judge Honorable Tanya Wilson. Judge Wilson shared her life experiences with the families. She highlighted her determination to overcome obstacles and to persist to achieve her dream of becoming an attorney. She provided examples of various life experiences and bumps during her journey to success that sometimes felt like mountains and the valleys that seemed like endless pits. She encouraged the families to learn from others experiences and missteps and hold to the vision and "Dream."

Board of Commissioners' Meeting

The Orlando Housing Authority Board of Commissioners will hold its Board Meeting, Thursday, February 19, 2015 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.



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 No. 15-002
Elena Gaona
(202) 708-0685

FOR RELEASE
Friday
January 9, 2015

HUD CHARGES BROOKLYN CO-OP WITH DISCRIMINATING AGAINST DISABLED VETERAN

WASHINGTON –The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced today that it has charged a 1,144-unit Coney Island cooperative development and the president of its board of directors with housing discrimination for refusing to allow a veteran with a psychiatric disability to keep an emotional support animal. HUD is charging Trump Village IV and Igor Oberman, the President of the Trump Village IV Board of Directors, with wrongfully denying the veteran's request for a reasonable accommodation and taking steps to evict him and his wife in retaliation for filing a fair housing complaint.

The Fair Housing Act makes it unlawful to refuse to make reasonable accommodations in policies or practices when a person with a disability requires such an accommodation, including refusing to grant waivers to "no-pet" policies for persons who use assistance or support animals.

"For many people with disabilities, support animals are essential to their ability to perform everyday activities that others take for granted," said Gustavo Velasquez, HUD Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity. "The Fair Housing Act requires housing providers to grant reasonable accommodations, and HUD is committed to taking action if they fail to meet that obligation."

The case came to HUD's attention when the veteran and his wife filed a complaint alleging that Trump Village IV and Oberman refused to allow the veteran to keep an emotional support animal and pursued eviction proceedings, despite the fact that he provided medical documentation verifying his condition and need for the dog.

The veteran and his wife also alleged that Trump Village IV retaliated against them for filing their complaint by freezing their place on the wait list for parking in the development's main parking lot and removing the wife from the co-op's board of directors.

HUD's charge will be heard by a United States Administrative Law Judge unless any party to the charge elects to have the case heard in federal district court.

Source: hud.org