

COMMISSIONER

Marlene Christine Hurd, Vice Chair

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In July 2012, Marlene Hurd was elected Vice-Chair of the OHA Board of Commissioners (BOC). Ms. Hurd has served as a resident Commissioner since her appointment in 2009 by then-mayor, Ron Dellums, and was reappointed by Mayor Jean Quan to a second term in 2012.

Ms. Hurd is deeply committed to expanding housing choices for Oakland residents and is a staunch advocate of a variety of programs that provide additional services intended to accelerate the rate of resident self-sufficiency. Her passion involves increasing resident civic engagement and advocacy; developing more Section 3 hiring opportunities; expanding the MOMS program, which facilitates the reunification of formerly incarcerated women and their children; and further developing the OHA Family and Community Partnerships (FCP) department's Educational Initiative.

Since Ms. Hurd joined the BOC, they voted to create a 15-member Resident Advisory Board and to support membership in the National Alliance of Resident Services in Affordable and Assisted Housing (NAR-SAAH). Additionally, they launched OUR Voice, the semi-annual resident newsletter.

Among the many other successes of the BOC is the establishment of the Education Policy Committee for which Ms. Hurd serves as Chair. The committee created a MOU with Oakland Unified School District and works with FCP staff to improve resident youth educational outcomes, with particular attention to chronically absent students. The BOC has also increased its support of the agency's Section 3 resident hiring policy and is investigating ways to expand the MOMS program.

After several years of personal struggle and setbacks, Ms. Hurd returned to school and earned an A.A. degree in Labor Studies at Laney College and a B.A degree from Mills College. As a resident of OHA she took advantage of support programs and graduated from the OHA Leadership Institute and also attained the Commissioners Certification from the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO). Her commitment to personal improvement serves as a shining example for the residents and staff that she works with side by side.



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