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## **NEWS RELEASE/MEDIA ADVISORY**

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### **ERIC JOHNSON NAMED NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF OAKLAND HOUSING AUTHORITY**

OAKLAND, Calif., – The Oakland Housing Authority (OHA) Board of Commissioners has announced the appointment of Eric Johnson, currently Deputy Executive Director for Property Operations, to the position of Executive Director of the Oakland Housing Authority. Johnson succeeds Jon Gresley who is retiring next week after serving the organization for 32 years.

Johnson was named Executive Director following a national search which attracted candidates from all over the country. He will assume the Executive Director position on November 15, 2010.

OHA Board Chairman Moses Mayne said, "We did not choose just an Executive Director, we chose a leader of a team, and the team includes the Board of Commissioners, the Executive Director and staff that work together to make a difference in Oakland for residents and the community at large. Eric Johnson was chosen for his passion for the residents as well as his passion for the community, and it is our desire to have that passion continue throughout the agency. That is his charge," Mayne said.

Eric Johnson said, "I look forward to leading a strong OHA team as we continue to move OHA forward in a progressive, responsible and sustainable direction that preserves and enhances our current properties and programs, in addition to moving forward with innovative development opportunities."

With nearly 20 years of experience in affordable housing, Johnson joined the Oakland Housing Authority management team in 2008 and in a few short years made great innovative strides. He led the reorganization of property management operations to increase site-based responsibility and presence throughout the portfolio, dramatically improving oversight and significantly reducing community complaints related to the properties. Johnson initiated and supervised the completion of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) disposition process, transitioning 1,554 units of public housing onto project based Section 8 program units. He also participated in and contributed leadership to the development and implementation of the Moving to Work Program (MTW), in which OHA has the flexibility to create unique programs specific to Oakland's needs. At the Oakland Housing Authority Johnson will direct a staff of 358 and an annual budget of \$260 million.

Prior to his position in Oakland, Johnson worked with one of the nation's largest housing authorities. While with the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA), he served as the Director of Housing Management for four years. As part of his duties, Johnson advocated for Section 8 clients, managed project-based Section 8, low-income tax credits, market-rate and public housing properties. His previous positions at HACLA include work as the Assistant Director Community and Economic Development Department and as an analyst in Resident Relations Department.

Outgoing Executive Director Gresley said, "After an exhaustive search, I am pleased to find that the OHA commission has made a selection of a strong and capable internal candidate. Eric Johnson has been a great contributing member of the OHA team; and I am certain that, under his leadership, the Oakland Housing Authority will continue to provide outstanding service to our families, seniors and to the larger community."

Long recognized as one of the leading housing authorities in the nation, the Oakland Housing Authority (OHA) continues to be an innovator in the field of public housing. Currently, OHA provides housing for approximately 10 percent of Oakland's families, operating 3,160 public housing and project based section 8 units. Presently, 10,958 Oakland families, elderly and disabled rent with Section 8 vouchers. The average annual income of OHA families is about \$15,000.

For more information about the Oakland Housing Authority, call (510) 874-1500 or visit the website: [www.oakha.org](http://www.oakha.org)