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## **LONGTIME HOUSING ADVOCATE NAMED OAKLAND HOUSING AUTHORITY'S DIRECTOR OF RESIDENT INITIATIVES**

### **Appointee has two decades of experience in affordable housing**

(Oakland, CA) – Executive Director Jon Gresley today announced long-time housing advocate Sean Heron has been appointed to the newly created position of Director of Resident Initiatives. Heron will provide leadership to a new, consolidated department designed to support the self-sufficiency and economic advancement of OHA residents.

“Sean brings an outstanding combination of work experience and community engagement with organizations who will work with us on our efforts to connect our residents to employment opportunities,” Gresley said. “This appointment will create some real momentum and put a lot of horsepower behind the ‘work’ portion of *Moving to Work*.”

Heron has been the Senior Policy Analyst at OHA for the last two years. In that role Sean was responsible for managing the agency’s *Moving to Work* agreement with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and built strategic partnerships with several community-based organizations to train and support the leadership development of OHA residents. Heron has more than 20 years in community development, affordable housing and urban planning. He has served in a variety of positions, including as the executive director for East Bay Housing Organizations (EBHO). He spent several years in Southern California working as staff director for the Los Angeles Blue Ribbon Citizen’s Committee on Slum Housing, and as a project manager for the California Mutual Housing Association.

Heron received his Bachelor’s Degree in Social Studies/Urban Studies from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, and a Master’s Degree in Urban Planning from the University of California at Los Angeles.

Oakland Housing Authority recently celebrated its 70th Anniversary of providing quality, affordable housing to Oakland’s residents. It has revitalized neighborhoods, offered life



enrichment services to its residents and has contributed to the local economy. Presently, 11,142 of Oakland families, elderly and disabled rent with Section 8 vouchers, which is a public/private partnership allowing clients choice in the private rental market. OHA provides housing for approximately 10 percent of Oakland's families, with 3,221 public housing units in its stock. The average income of OHA families is about \$15,000.

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