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Oakland Housing Authority Participates in Housing America 2007 Campaign

*OHA Recommits to Providing Decent, Safe, Affordable Housing,
Encourages Joint Effort with Local Civic Leaders*

OAKLAND, Calif., April 2, 2007 - The Oakland Housing Authority (OHA) is participating in Housing America 2007, a national campaign to raise public consciousness of the critical role public housing plays in local communities. The campaign, running from March 26 to April 9, is initiated by the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO), and joins public and private sector partners to highlight the need to provide and maintain affordable housing to more than 2 million Americans.

“OHA is participating in this important campaign to build local awareness of public housing programs in Oakland and the community redevelopment initiatives that we have undertaken,” said Executive Director Jon Gresley. “We hope to reestablish this objective as a priority in the City of Oakland.”

Public housing is severely underfunded nationwide; federal funding is at less than 85 percent of the need. In 2007, OHA will be receiving only 83 percent of the funds required for unit upkeep. This is the equivalent to cutting maintenance to 562 housing units, and services for 562 low-income families. Additionally, money to cover property rehabilitation and modernization has been slashed; in 2006, the OHA shortfall was \$7.1 million.

“We recognize the unmet needs of our tenants,” added Gresley. “Responding to those needs can be achieved cooperatively, with renewed support at the federal level. This campaign calls upon the federal government to meet its obligation to maintain its investment in this vital housing resource for the elderly, disabled and other low-income families. Unless the federal government recommits itself to this program, it may be necessary for local and state governments to fill in the gaps created by the limits of federal assistance.”

Housing America 2007 is spearheaded by the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, a membership organization of 21,000 housing and community development agencies and professionals, along with 12 partner organizations standing in support of housing and community development interests.

The Oakland Housing Authority (OHA) is the City of Oakland's state-chartered and federally funded agency to promote the availability of quality housing for low-income persons. OHA works to promote the civic involvement and economic self-sufficiency of its residents and to further the expansion of affordable housing within Oakland. The Authority is currently helping to house 14,000 of the city's lowest income families. (www.oakha.org)

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