



# News Release

## Oakland Housing Authority Wins National Excellence Award

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 1 – The Oakland Housing Authority (OHA) has won a national award honoring superior assisted housing and community development programs. The OHA won in the Program Innovation: Community Revitalization category for the Lion Creek Crossings Transit-Oriented District Housing.

The 2009 Award of Excellence comes from the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO), and will be officially presented on Oct. 6 at NAHRO's National Conference and Exhibition in Washington, D.C. The OHA is one of 18 programs nationwide to receive the 2009 award, out of an original pool of 212 merit winners.

Working with the City of Oakland and the Bay Area Rapid Transit Authority (BART), the OHA developed a master plan for a transit-oriented village adjacent to the Oakland Airport/Coliseum BART station. The village, Lion Creek Crossings, replaces Coliseum Gardens, a 1960s-era public housing development that was oriented away from the surrounding neighborhood, isolating its residents. Underutilized industrial properties were also replaced with high-density housing and retail and office space. Streets were realigned to integrate the redevelopment into the neighborhood and encourage interaction between neighbors; a city park was reconfigured and located within the new housing; and Lion Creek, which runs through the site, was restored to its natural condition. When completed, Lion Creek Crossings will include 467 affordable houses and apartments, 157 of which will be floating public housing units. The neighborhood as a whole was designed to reduce the isolation of the original public housing project, thus increasing safety, and to knit the project into the surrounding community, all the while encouraging use of mass transit.

“As NAHRO celebrates its 75th anniversary we are proud to recognize the achievements of our members who are committed to finding innovative solutions and groundbreaking programs that address local needs and opportunities that enhance the lives of families, operations and community development,” said NAHRO President Renée Rooker. “They are truly leading the way for a better America.”

The **National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials** (NAHRO), established in 1933, is a membership organization of 23,000 housing and community development agencies and professionals throughout the United States whose mission is to create affordable housing and safe, viable communities that enhance the quality of life for all Americans, especially those of low- and moderate-income. NAHRO's membership administers more than 3 million housing units for 7.6 million people.

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