



Oakland Housing
Authority

Contact: Bronwyn Hogan, senior communications manager
(510) 874-1563 or bhogan@oakha.org

Oakland Housing Authority's Appoints New Deputy Executive Director for Property Operations

New Authority Leader Brings Conventional Public Housing, Section 8 Experience to Key Leadership Role

OAKLAND, Calif., March 7, 2008 – The Oakland Housing Authority (OHA) has announced the appointment of Eric Johnson to the position of deputy executive director for Property Operations. Johnson takes over for Sharon Harrison Cossey, who is retiring from the Authority on March 31, after more than 13 years of service.

“Eric brings an enormous amount of affordable housing knowledge with him,” said Executive Director Jon Gresley. “He has accumulated more than 17 years advocating for Section 8 clients, and managing project-based Section 8, low-income tax credits, and market-rate and public housing properties.”

Johnson’s former position was with the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) as the director of Housing Management, a position he held for almost four years. He joined HACLA in 1997 as an administrative analyst in the Resident Relations Department. In 1999, he was promoted to the position of assistant director, Community and Economic Development Department. In 2004, he took over his existing position.

As the director of HACLA’s Housing Management, Johnson lead the 370 employees who administer HACLA’s conventional public housing and market rate rental housing inventory, serving 9054 families. The divisions he oversaw included the Application Center, the Inspection Division, all site management and maintenance operations, Central Maintenance, Capital Fund Design and Construction Services, in-house construction, and Resident Services (including Resident Participation, Workforce Development, and Employment Technology Center programs).

“In addition to his housing background, Eric has worked with resident leadership and social service providers, and leaves a legacy of open communications and hope for residents and neighbors of HACLA properties,” added Gresley.

Johnson will assume his new position with the Authority on March 10. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature with honors from the University of California, Los Angeles.

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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