



Press Contact:
Jo Ann Driscoll, Consultant
Office 510-663-1473
Cell 510-459-8144

For immediate release:
December 1, 2008

**OAKLAND HOUSING AUTHORITY HONORS ITS PAST AND PRESENT COMMISSIONERS
DURING 70TH ANNIVERSARY OBSERVANCE**

(Oakland, CA) -- As a centerpiece of its year-long 70th Anniversary Observance, the Oakland Housing Authority (OHA) will hold a special event from 5 to 6 p.m. on Monday, December 8, to honor the men and women who have served the people of Oakland as past and present Housing Commissioners. The event will be held in the OHA Commissioners' Room, 1619 Harrison Street in Oakland.

The Oakland Housing Authority will salute those individuals whose dedication to governing the Authority has brought assistance to hundreds of thousands of Oakland individuals and families who are in need of quality, low-income housing.

"The Oakland Housing Authority is recognized nationally for its steady leadership, creativity and initiative," said Jon Gresley, who has been the Authority's Executive Director since 1999. "We are grateful for the dedicated work of our many commissioners who have guided us over the past decades. For over 70 years, leaders from the community, including OHA residents and those working in business and government, and other representatives of the community of Oakland have worked together on the Board of Commissioners to provide quality affordable housing opportunities for Oakland's low-income families." Also to be honored at the event is Harold Davis, who preceded Gresley as the Authority's Executive Director serving twenty-seven years from 1972 to 1999.

The Oakland Housing Authority is governed by seven commissioners who are appointed by the Mayor and approved by the Oakland City Council. Two members are residents of the

Housing Authority. The seven current OHA Commissioners are: Moses Mayne, Jr., Chair of the Board; Robert J. Pittman, Jr., Vice Chair; William Curry; Gregory D. Hartwig; Marlene Hurd; Tanya Pitts and Esther Purvis-Allen.

Among the past Oakland Housing Authority Commissioners are many distinguished community and business leaders who have served the organization. Many have continued on in their careers to make additional contributions through public service, including becoming members of the Oakland City Council.

OHA currently serves 37,000 people, provides a total of 3,221 public housing apartments and 11,142 Section 8 private, leased housing units, serving a total of 14,363 families in the City of Oakland.

The public is welcome to attend the special event honoring Oakland Housing Authority Commissioners between 5:00 and 6:00 pm on December 8, 2008 at 1619 Harrison Street in Oakland. For more information about this special event, or Oakland Housing Authority, please visit the website at www.oakha.org or call 510-874-1512.

###