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**OAKLAND HOUSING AUTHORITY'S COMMISSIONERS  
RECEIVE PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION FROM  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HOUSING  
AND REDEVELOPMENT OFFICIALS (NAHRO)**

(Oakland, CA) -- Commissioners of the Oakland Housing Authority were among the first in the nation to be certified for the successful completion of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) Professional Development Program for Commissioners. Certificates were recently presented at a national NAHRO conference in Portland, OR. The certification program is designed for those who are members of the boards of commissioners providing policy and budget direction for local public housing authorities across the nation.

The inaugural class of 47 commissioners from around the country completed the certification courses, including four members of the Oakland Housing Authority Board of Commissioners: Vice Chair Robert J. Pittman, Jr.; William Curry, Marlene Hurd, and Esther Purvis-Allen. Expected to receive certificates at up-coming NAHRO events are OHA commissioners: Chair Moses L. Mayne, Jr.; Gregory D. Hartwig, and Tanya Pitts, who are completing their course work.

"Oakland Housing Authority had the largest group of commissioners who were certified and it is a tribute to their initiative," stated Commission Chair Moses L. Mayne, Jr. "It also demonstrates how seriously our commissioners take their responsibilities to our community." Chair Mayne has been active in the Professional Development Subcommittee for Commissioners for NAHRO and is one of the principal supporters of the new program of commissioner certification.

Oakland Housing Authority Executive Director Jon Gresley said, "Oakland Housing Authority is gaining a reputation as an innovator among housing authorities. Commissioners gain a great amount of knowledge from the courses designed to train them in their leadership role. The fact that Oakland Housing Authority commissioners are some of the most active participants

in NAHRO training has been very beneficial in preparing our commissioners to support the authority as it undertakes new initiatives.”

The certification process includes training in “Commissioner Fundamentals,” which provides an overview of the role of a commissioner in setting policy and working with management and the community. The commissioners also learn how to serve as an ambassador to civic and governmental officials on behalf of their local housing authorities. “Commissioner Ethics,” examines the ethical rules of governance, the legal and moral obligations and responsibilities of commissioners.

The seven Oakland Housing Authority Commissioners are drawn from community and business leaders who make a contribution to the City of Oakland through their public service. They are appointed by the mayor with the approval of the Oakland City Council, and serve either a two or four year term.

Oakland Housing Authority recently celebrated its 70<sup>th</sup> 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. OHA provides housing for approximately 10 percent of Oakland's families, with 3,221 public housing units in its stock. 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. The average income of OHA families is about \$15,000.

For more information on the Oakland Housing Authority call 510-874-1512 or visit [www.oakha.org](http://www.oakha.org)