



April 27, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

David Lipsetz, Senior Policy Analyst

Oakland Housing Authority

(510) 874-1511

dlipsetz@oakha.org

**Charges Expected Against Former Housing Employee
Employee Solicited Cash Payments in Exchange for Public Housing Apartments**

OAKLAND, Calif. – Thirty Four instances of fraud and theft by a former employee have been uncovered by the Oakland Housing Authority (OHA). The former employee had taken publicly-owned apartments reserved for low-income families on OHA’s wait list and rented them to other people after receiving cash payments of up to \$1,000 per apartment.

The Oakland Housing Authority Police Department is working closely with the Alameda County District Attorney’s Office to file a criminal complaint against the former employee. Police have confirmed the former employee has fled the State.

The persons who moved into the apartments after the cash payments were made are being evicted so that low-income families on the OHA wait list can move in. At this time, OHA has not pursued criminal charges against the persons who moved into the apartments following the cash payments to the former employee.

According to Jon Gresley, OHA Executive Director, “There is a huge demand for affordable housing in Oakland and we want to serve the families who have legitimately applied for help and waited their turn.”

Anyone with additional information pertaining to the criminal investigation of this matter is encouraged to contact Carel Duplessis, the Oakland Housing Authority Chief of Police, at (510) 535-3104.

###