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NEWS RELEASE

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HOUSING AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR STEPS DOWN AFTER 32 YEARS WITH AGENCY

Commissioners open nationwide search for new leader

OAKLAND, CA—Oakland Housing Authority Executive Director Jon Gresley will retire after more than three decades working as an advocate, innovator and leading figure in public housing, he announced recently. Gresley, 64, will not renew his contract when it expires on April 30, but will stay in the position on an interim basis until a new executive director is hired this summer.

“It’s a sad day for OHA,” Board of Commissioners Chairman Moises L. Mayne Jr. said. “He has put together a framework that will last us long into the future. Jon has been a champion for employees and has balanced the needs of the local community, the housing authority and the commissioners and still met (federal) expectations. That is no easy feat.”

Gresley joined OHA in 1978 after working for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in Chicago and San Francisco. He served as a U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer in the Philippines from 1968-1970. In 1999, Gresley became OHA’s executive director, succeeding Harold Davis, who ran the Authority for the previous 27 years.

“Mr. Davis left a strong foundation I could build on,” Gresley said. “I like to think I put up a few walls. I believe that now is the right time for the Authority to transition to new leadership. I am hopeful that a new Executive Director will be here to provide stable leadership, guiding OHA into a new era.”

During his tenure as executive director, Gresley has led a surge of new OHA-affiliated public and affordable rental homes. By the time he steps away, OHA or its affiliates will have built more than 1,100 additional affordable units, even during difficult economic times.

Gresley has held a variety of leadership roles in a number of Bay Area non-profit and national affordable housing organizations. He currently serves as the Treasurer on the Board of Directors of the Council of Large Public Housing Authorities and is the President-elect for the Rotary Club of Oakland. He will assume the presidency on July 1, 2010.