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Oakland Housing Authority Wins Five NAHRO Awards: Recognized for Innovative Programs

OAKLAND, CA, May 17, 2006 — The Oakland Housing Authority is pleased to announce it will receive five National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials' (NAHRO) 2006 Awards of Merit. "The awards are given to recognize outstanding innovation and achievement in housing and community development programs throughout the country."

The awards will be conferred at a Special Awards Reception on July 14th, during the National NAHRO Summer Conference in Denver, Co. NAHRO has also announced that three of OHA's award winning projects are being considered for its even more prestigious Award of Excellence.

OHA Executive Director Jon Gresley responded, "We are thrilled to receive so many awards in one year, and proud to be recognized nationally for innovative programs and the development of high-quality low-cost housing in Oakland."

OHA's Award of Merit winners:

Jewels in the Neighborhoods: Recognizes the OHA Landscape Team's work to help integrate OHA's smaller scale scattered housing stock into surrounding communities.

Homeownership: Start to Finish: Recognizes OHA's program to make homeownership a reality for low-income families.

Mandela Gateway: Mixed Use Housing Development: Recognizes how OHA demolished one of its most challenging public housing projects and replaced it with the high-quality Mandela Gateway apartment complex that houses Oakland residents with a range of incomes, includes commercial and community space, and has sites reserved for first-time home buyers.

Fraud Investigation Unit: An Honest Day's Work: Recognizes OHA's Fraud Investigation Unit works with tenants, recovering unpaid funds for the Authority and deterring future fraud.

Summer Fun: Non-Traditional Youth Programs: Recognizes OHA's work with community-based partners to establish a large menu of summer recreation programming for youth.

Three of OHA's award winning projects are being considered for the even more prestigious NAHRO Award of Excellence: "Jewels in the Neighborhood," "Homeownership: Start to Finish," and "Mandela Gateway: Mixed-Use Housing Development."

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)

The National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) is the leading housing and community development advocate for the provision of adequate and affordable housing and strong, viable communities for all Americans—particularly those with low- and moderate-incomes. Its members administer HUD programs such as Public Housing, Section 8, CDBG and HOME. (<http://www.nahro.org/awards/index.cfm>)

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