



Oakland Housing  
Authority

## **NEWS RELEASE/MEDIA ADVISORY**

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### **Oakland Housing Authority Announces the Passing of a Member of its Board of Commissioners**

OAKLAND—It is with great sadness that the Oakland Housing Authority Board of Commissioners announces the death of Commissioner Bettye Lou Wright who passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family on March 14, 2022.

“I enjoyed working with Bettye Lou over the years. It was so obvious to everyone that her number one concern was the health and well-being of the clients we served and you couldn’t help but admire that dedication and be inspired by it,” said Gregory D. Hartwig, Chair of the OHA Board of Commissioners. Patricia Wells, OHA Executive Director added, “Ms. Bettye Lou served as a leader not just with our Board of Commissioners, but also our Resident Advisory Board and was a volunteer staff member with great passion and commitment. Her presence was felt in all she did and her love of her fellow OHA residents and staff will be what we remember most. Our hearts go out to her immediate family and friends at this time, and to the extended OHA family who are grieving the loss.”

Ms. Betty Lou Wright is a true example of a community advocate. She could be found either leading or supporting events and workshops at her local church, her neighborhood association, the OHA community and the City of Oakland at large. She was one of the founders of the OHA Crafting Guild and was one of the lead organizers of the Palo Vista Tea Party. She was an OHA Resident Advisory Board member since 2012 and actively advanced the many initiatives put forth by that advocacy group. Ms. Wright’s level of passion and sense of community was uncommon among individuals.

In addition to her many volunteer civic activities, Wright volunteered part-time as a receptionist at OHA’s West Oakland district office performing clerical duties, assisting visitors and aiding staff during special events.

Ms. Bettye Lou was an invaluable member and contributor to the OHA Resident Leadership Program, she was a recurrent member of the annual OHA Holiday Splendor Committee and she attended EBHO’s Leadership Institute. She was also a graduate of the former

Neighborhood Leadership Institute and its corresponding NOW program. Additionally, as a Dial Care volunteer, she conducted weekly wellness calls to elderly residents to break social isolation. In 2015, Ms. Wright was named OHA's Volunteer of the Year.

Ms. Wright's children were by her side in the weeks prior to her passing. They worked closely with OHA staff to help share Ms. Wright's message about the importance of self-care, health screenings and early treatment of cancer, as sharing that message with others, in hopes of saving the lives of others, was part of the legacy she wished to leave behind.

***About the Oakland Housing Authority (OHA)***

*The Oakland Housing Authority is the largest provider of affordable housing in the City of Oakland and proudly delivers diverse housing opportunities to over 16,400 families in Oakland, and through an additional contract with HUD, provides oversight and contract administration services for over 41,000 Project Based Rental Assistance units in Northern California. For more information about the OHA, please contact us at [info@oakha.org](mailto:info@oakha.org), visit our website at [www.oakha.org](http://www.oakha.org), or call 510-874-1563.*

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