Direct to You

Friday 1/13/22

> Patricia Wells, OHA Executive Director



Good Morning OHA Family

As we go into this long holiday weekend, many of us do so with plans of offering ourselves for a day of service. To me, there is no higher way to honor the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., than to give selflessly so that others can be helped and uplifted by my example.

But this year in particular, his legacy carries even more weight than in previous years. Earlier this week President Biden delivered a speech in which he discussed the importance of the vote, of human dignity and of the need for people to choose which side of history they want to be on. The president's words struck me very

deeply because it reminded me of a speech Dr. King once gave at his home church, Ebenezer Baptist Church. In his July 4, 1965 speech he talked about the words in the Constitution, 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by God, Creator, with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.' He went on to add, "This is a dream. This is a great dream... Never before in the history of the world has a sociopolitical document expressed in such profound, eloquent and unequivocal language the dignity and the worth of human personality. The American dream reminds us—and we should think about it anew on this Independence Day—that every man is an heir of the legacy of dignity and worth."

I share this often overlooked speech because it is a reminder of the work we do here at OHA throughout the year. We are a part of a legacy of honoring our fellow man, regardless of his/her/their station, by recognizing the humanity that lies within us all and treating them with dignity.

Like Dr. King and President Biden suggest, we have the opportunity to choose how we want to be remembered. We have the opportunity to decide for ourselves, in our unique capacity, to be the change we wish to see in the world.

There are several pieces of legislation pending currently that will enhance voting rights, strengthen the social safety net and create new channels of security for our health, our environment and our communities. We are busy tracking this legislation on a state and national level with optimism, in hopes that each will lead to a better world. But for now, we can consider our own priorities and find ways both large and small, to respect the inalienable rights of those we know, work with and come into contact with in our daily lives.

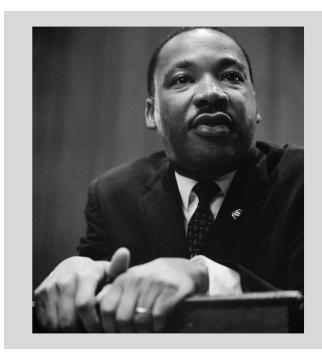
I hope you all have a safe weekend filled with meaningful engagement with those around you. Wishing you also a Happy New Year!





All past issues of Direct To You are available on the OHA website for 24/7 access. In addition to the messages sent directly from the OHA executive director, you can also find links to other resources, articles, and up-to-date information about OHA operations and the ways we are addressing the current health crisis.

Have a Happy Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Holiday Weekend!



"So even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."

> Martin Luther King Jr. Day January 17, 2022

The OHAPD Raises Funds for Cancer Awareness, Education and Services



The Oakland Housing Authority Police Department (OHAPD) participated in its Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Fundraiser in October 2021, a.k.a. the Pink Patch Project. Through hard work by staff and support from OHA partners, residents, family, and friends alike, OHAPD raised a total of \$6,100.00! These funds will be donated to the HERS Breast Cancer Foundation, a local non-profit organization dedicated to providing critical post-surgical products and services to breast cancer patients, regardless of insurance or financial status. Moreover, the funds raised play a crucial role in aiding continued services across the Bay Area.

Great Job OHAPD, and thank you to all who support this fantastic cause!

REMEMBER: if you have reasonable suspicion that you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 or if you are experiencing symptoms of fever (100.4 Fahrenheit or higher), coughing, or shortness of breath, do not report to work. Immediately contact your primary care provider and then your supervisor for instructions on what you need to do next. If you have any questions regarding your schedule, please contact your supervisor or Director. If you have questions in regards to pay or leave time, please contact Human Resources at (510) 874-1575.

2022 OHA Holiday Schedule and OHA Calendar

CORRECTION: The calendar(s) below correct a previous version. December 23, 2022 is a Friday (not Thursday as was written in the earlier version). The correct holiday schedule is below:







All past issues of **Direct To You** are available on the OHA website for 24/7 access. In addition to the messages sent directly from the OHA executive director, you can also find links to other resources, articles, and up-to-date information about OHA operations and the ways we are addressing the current health crisis.

