

Direct to You

Thursday
7/1/21

Patricia Wells, OHA Executive Director



Happy Independence Day, OHA!

A lot has been written about the history of America from July 2nd, 1776, when “the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence, and two days later delegates from the 13 colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence, a historic document drafted by Thomas Jefferson.” From 1776 to the present day, July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American independence, with festivities ranging from fireworks, parades and concerts to more casual family gatherings and barbecues.” Yet, it occurs to me that perhaps in the midst of celebratory traditions, we might want to take a moment to reflect upon the meaning and importance of “independence.”

This year, the US celebration of Independence has been enhanced to include “National Juneteenth Day,” now officially a Federal Holiday that recognizes that 2½ years from the day they were officially free, slaves in Texas learned of their release from bondage. That long journey is both sobering and inspirational, as it reminds me that the work to ensure equality and inclusion continues, and that we as an OHA team, and as individuals, have the opportunity to be an active part of that work.

Today, I challenge us all to view Independence Day as not just a day of celebrating good food, friends and family, but also as both a right earned, and a responsibility to own. In addition to celebrating the country with family and friends, use Independence Day as a day to get inspired to take on a purposeful role to help move us a step closer to becoming a more perfect union, in a way that expresses our own purpose. Whether you are passionate about social justice, racial equality, climate change and the environment, economic disparity, educational opportunity or something else, make the effort to be the change you want to see in the world. Our collective, yet independent, actions are what our forefathers (and foremothers) have heroically modeled for us since the inception of the country. We can all independently and collectively make a difference, and July 4th is a good day to make a difference.

Be safe this weekend and enjoy a long and much deserved break!

Patricia



Have a Safe July 4th Celebration

With a drought and dry weather conditions severely impacting California, most counties have made personal use of fireworks illegal, however, that doesn't mean fun family-friendly 4th of July celebrations aren't available.

The SF Chronicle published this list of activities for the holiday weekend which includes parades, festivals and of course, public fireworks displays around the Bay Area. Checkout the list to find events near you. KRON 4 also offers their own list of Bay Area activities, which you can review here. Observing fireworks restrictions will help reduce the likelihood of fire and other dangers. Please stay safe and hydrated as you enjoy your weekend!





Welcome Back...Phase I

This past year the OHA team successfully kept up strong “Prevent the Spread” measures as we performed our work tasks, so that we did not experience any COVID incidents at the workplace. I hope you join me in a show of gratitude and pride that those of us in the workplace were committed to keeping one another as safe as possible. Our journey continues. As you may already be aware, Governor Newsom recently lifted many of the face covering and social distancing requirements for the State of California. I’m sure many of us are excited to get back to the comfort of interacting without masks, however, as we have been throughout the pandemic, OHA will continue to progress conservatively and with the best interest of employee and resident safety in mind.

Moving forward, in order to relax mask restrictions while staying compliant with safety regulations, we are updating our practices to the following agency wide protocols beginning Tuesday, July 6, 2021:

1. The Authority will lift social distancing restrictions:

This will allow for a return to regular occupancy limits inside elevators, restrooms, break areas, and vehicles. This will also allow for an increase in occupancy of administrative buildings so that more employees will be able to return to working on site.

2. Masks will not be required outdoors on OHA property when more than 6 feet from any employee or member of the public:

All other mask restrictions will remain in place. This includes wearing masks during any in person interaction, or when outside of your individually assigned work area. For our staff working at our residential properties, you will keep your masks on while performing routine and emergency work orders and inspections in occupied units.

3. A vaccination database effort will begin:

Also beginning on July 6, 2021, in accordance with California safety guidelines, the Authority will formally begin the effort of tracking who has been vaccinated against COVID-19. The Human Resources team will lead the effort in creating and maintaining this database. I am counting on all OHA employees and consultants to respond to the HR team so they can complete this task as quickly as possible.

Over the next several days, department directors and management teams will be communicating with each employee regarding specific changes in work assignments and schedules. If you have any concerns or questions about how these changes will impact you, please do not hesitate to reach out to your department director, or to the director of Human Resources.

We look forward to seeing more of our OHA family at our offices.



Effective July 1, the toll on the Golden Gate Bridge will increase. Click here to learn more. Other bridges are unchanged, but you can still get up-to-date information about all Bay Area bridges here.

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.

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.

