

Direct to You

Thursday
5/17/21

Patricia Wells, OHA Executive Director

Hello OHA!



In a month filled with many recognitions and celebrations, we add National Foster Care Month, Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month and National Law Enforcement Week to the list.

I recognize that as concerned citizens, many of us seek more ways to be involved in issues that drive daily conversations in our communities. Many recent news stories have been sparked by local events that “go viral” and then resonate nationally. It is important that everyone in the OHA Family knows that we seek unity and stand against the hate which, sadly, underlies many of those traumatic events. It gives me hope when I hear about efforts staff are making to have a positive impact for these issues in our personal time, while working toward our mission.

As we move through these turbulent times, we at OHA will embrace an inclusive, respectful and welcoming environment for all. While the Human Resources Department team is providing a robust menu of training and supportive services that are intended to educate and reinforce OHA's firm belief in equality, equity and inclusion, the welcoming environment at OHA will only thrive by each of us contributing to this effort as a unified team. I hope each member of our staff will join me in this daily walk.

SPECIAL NOTE: Each day, new information and guidance is being publicly discussed and distributed by Federal, State and Local public health officials. This can be confusing. Please know that I am working with the Leadership Team to review and adjust OHA's COVID-19 policies, in conjunction with available scientific information and established best practices.

As many of you may have heard, the CDC has issued guidance related to wearing masks, specifically the loosening of requirements for mask wearing. I want to remind each of you that while the CDC provided a recommendation, we each are required to follow the rules and laws established by our state and local government. So for OHA, we are all bound by the legal requirements established by the California Health & Safety Code and will continue with the current policy for wearing masks while on site at all OHA properties until the Alameda County Public Health Director amends the county's current legal requirements on mask wearing and the OHA policy is amended following the change by the County.

Staff will be advised of any changes to our internal protocols once legal requirements related to the pandemic have been authored by the public health Director. For now, all staff are advised to continue with the current protocols, which includes:

Wear a mask when in the presence of others whether indoors or outdoors (regardless of your vaccine status).

- Maintain 6 ft. of social distance.
- Only one person at a time in restrooms and elevators.
- Wash hands often, use hand sanitizer and continue to practice good personal hygiene.
- Check with your supervisor about specific instructions related to your specific job duties.

Thank you for continuing to do your part to keep us all safe.

Patricia

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.



National Foster Care Month - Fostering Our Youth

May is National Foster Care Month!

ChildWelfare.gov/FosterCareMonth

National Foster Care Month is an initiative led and promoted by the Children's Bureau, a division of the US Department of Health & Human Services. Each May, we take time to acknowledge foster parents, family members, volunteers, mentors, policymakers, child welfare professionals, and other members of the community who help children and youth in foster care find permanent homes and connections. OHA joins them in using this time to renew our commitment to ensuring a bright future for the more than 423,000 children and youth in foster care, nationally, and celebrate those who make a meaningful difference in their lives.

Through our Family Unification Program and Building Bridges Programs, OHA provides housing for at least 70 "foster youth," many of whom have aged out of the foster care program. We continually seek new ways to address the unique challenges and obstacles faced by these children and young adults.

Learn more about foster care and the support available for this vulnerable community.

Celebrating Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month



May is Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month – a celebration of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States. A rather broad term, Asian/Pacific encompasses all of the Asian continent and the Pacific islands of Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia.

The month of May was selected to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and was broadened to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869, because the majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants. Like most commemorative months, Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month originated with Congress. It was initially only one week in duration, but in 1992, Congress passed a law designating May as Asia/Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Learn more.

Celebrating OHAPD During National Police Week and Every Day

In 1962, President Kennedy proclaimed May 15 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day and the calendar week in which May 15 falls, as National Police Week. Established by a joint resolution of Congress in 1962, National Police Week pays special recognition to those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others.



National Police Week is a collaborative effort of many organizations dedicated to honoring America's law enforcement community. OHA joins those organizations in celebrating the contributions of law enforcement agencies across the county, and our own Oakland Housing Authority Police Department, in particular, for helping to make our community safer for the families we serve and our staff who work in neighborhoods throughout Oakland. Learn more.

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.

