

# Direct to You

Thursday  
5/28/21

Patricia Wells, OHA Executive Director

## Hello OHA!



I hope everyone will join me in taking a moment to reflect on the ultimate sacrifice made by so many service members of the US Armed Forces, for whom this weekend is dedicated. Memorial Day continues to be one of the most solemn of all US holidays and I would be remiss if I did not personally recognize the day and encourage others to do as well.

As we wrap up another week, I want to send out a big thanks to all of you for continuing to move forward together, serving our clients and our community.

I hope you are able to take a little time to devote just to yourself during this long holiday weekend. Whether you go on a mountain hike, tinker in your garage or garden or sit at a park reading a good book, the weather is expected to be nice, providing a great opportunity to recharge your batteries.

Whatever you do this weekend, be safe and find joy!

Patricia



## Happy Trails



We celebrate Captain James Williams, who announced his retirement from the Oakland Housing Authority Police Department (OHAPD) effective June 14, 2021.

Captain Williams began his law enforcement career with the OHAPD on March 25, 1994, after successfully graduating from the Sacramento Public Safety Center Academy. After completing the department's field training program, Officer Williams was assigned to patrol. After a few years in patrol, he was assigned as the department's Section-8 officer, reporting compliance issues. In calendar year 2001, Officer Williams was promoted to the rank of Corporal and again assigned a patrol. In September 2003, he was appointed as commander of the newly formed Fraud Investigations Unit. In

September 2005, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and was assigned back to patrol. In March 2009, he was appointed to the rank of Lieutenant.

In 2012, Lieutenant Williams was asked to serve as the acting Chief of Police for the Oakland Unified School District Police Department. He served in that role with distinction until November 2015. In December 2015, Captain Williams was appointed to the rank of Captain and given authority over all field operation activities.

Throughout his 27-year career, he served as a Field Training Officer, Baton Instructor, Recruitment Officer, Internal Affairs Commander, Training Coordinator, and Bicycle Officer. During his tenure Captain Williams was the recipient of ten (10) Commendations including, CY 2000 Officer the Year, Chief Commendation Award, Safe Driving Award, Perfect Attendance, and Special Achievement.

According to OHAPD Chief Carel Duplessis, Captain Williams is known for his hard work, dedication, and positive attitude toward his work and co-workers. "He consistently demonstrates a high degree of skill, integrity, perseverance in his job, and exemplifies the best qualities of a law enforcement professional," Chief Duplessis said.

Executive Director, Patricia Wells added, "During the past few years, I have had the personal honor of working with Captain Williams on a variety of endeavors, community meetings, special projects, and special initiatives. I am grateful to call Captain Williams a great partner and friend."

On behalf of the Oakland Housing Authority, and The Oakland Housing Authority Police Department, Captain Williams has our congratulations upon his retirement and our heartfelt thanks for his many years of loyal service.

We wish him the greatest success and happiness in the future.

## Vaccinations - Doing Our Part



In an effort to curb the spread of COVID-19, OHA partnered with Alameda County Health Department and offered numerous on-site vaccination clinics to the senior residents living in affordable housing and OHA staff. The effort commenced in early April 2021, while vaccine was still only available for adults 65 and older and while vaccination appointments were scarce and hard to obtain. Since that time, OHA's outreach allowed more than 400 seniors and an additional 120 staff members to be vaccinated.

The Alameda County Health Department and OHA partnership continues to flourish, and through this mutual collaboration, OHA is pleased to introduce a community-wide vaccination clinic scheduled for June 10, 2021 at Lockwood Gardens between the hours of 10 am and 3 pm. The vaccine is available for youth and adults 12 years old and older and is open for the community at large. OHA is committed to ensuring that residents and staff are provided full range of COVID-19 prevention and treatment services, including tests and vaccines.

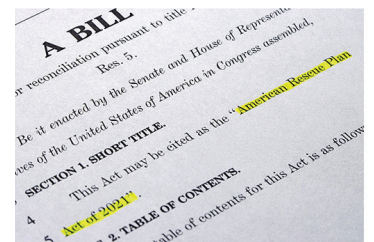
### **APPLY** **OAHPI Waitlist to Open Soon**

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.

## Emergency Housing Vouchers

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) allocated \$5 billion in American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds for emergency housing vouchers that will assist individuals and families who are experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness. The \$5 billion funding gives communities the resources needed to help eligible households find and remain in housing. HUD estimates that these Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHVs), alongside resources provided by the CARES Act, could help house 130,000 households nationwide.



On May 17, 2021, HUD awarded the Oakland Housing Authority 504 EHVs. OHA will work in partnership with its local Continuum of Care, the Coordinated Entry System and other local Public Housing Authorities to advance and improve the housing outcomes of individuals most impacted in Alameda County.

In order to be eligible for an EHV, an individual or family must meet one of four eligibility categories:

- Homeless
- At risk of homelessness
- Fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking
- Recently homeless and for whom providing rental assistance will prevent the family's homelessness or having high risk of housing instability.

The EHV program is a direct referral program. OHA will receive direct referrals for Emergency Housing Vouchers from its Alameda County partner, then OHA will conduct eligibility screening and other activities to assist EHV applicants with leasing units. We anticipate the program to launch in July 2021.

If you know someone who may meet one of the four eligible categories, please refer to the Coordinated Entry Countywide Call Center: 2-1-1.

**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.**

