



Berkeley Housing Authority

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January 2019

William E. Wilkins, Executive Director

Section 8 News

Government Shutdown

The federal government shutdown began on December 22, when the last Continuing Resolution expired. BHA did have HUD funding to cover January HAP and is told that February HAP funds will be available as well. We are awaiting word from HUD regarding the March HAP budget, should the shutdown continue past February. We realize there is concern on behalf of tenants and landlords, and if you wish, you can contact Congresswoman Barbara Lee or one of our two Senators to inform them of the challenges this shutdown poses to your families, who rely on this program for housing, and your landlords who rely on this program to cover their mortgages.

- Congresswoman Barbara Lee: (510) 763-0370
- Senator Kamala Harris: (415) 981-9369
- Senator Dianne Feinstein: (415) 393-0707

Biennial Inspections

BHA is now on a biennial inspections schedule. Those 2018 inspections that passed on the first attempt will not have another inspection until 2020, or sooner, if a Special Inspection is requested by either the landlord or tenant. For those inspections that failed in 2018, your unit will be scheduled for another inspection in 2019. Additionally, all those units with people who moved in during the calendar year 2018, will have an annual inspection in 2019. Before your next inspection, be sure to test your smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detector (if you have gas appliances), and check the cover plates of your electrical sockets—these tend to be the items with highest fail rates. And remember, if you or the landlord request a Special inspection, we will send our inspector in, no matter how long it has been since your most recent inspection.

2019 Resident Advisory Board

Every year BHA updates our Section 8 “Administrative Plan.” As part of the process we appoint a Resident Advisory Board (RAB), and ask those individuals to review the plan and provide comment. Please consider participating as a member of the RAB. If you agree to review the proposed Admin. Plan changes, and attend one meeting to share your comments (approximately 2-hours), you will receive \$50! This is not considered “income” so it won’t change your rent. To volunteer for the RAB contact us in writing by February 6, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. with your name, address, phone number and email. You can send by regular mail, drop off in the office or email the information to caguilar-vasquez@ci.berkeley.ca.us. If you have any questions call Celinda at (510) 981-5483.

Help Define the City's Clean Transportation Roadmap

Transportation is the largest source of climate-changing carbon pollution in Berkeley. Walking, biking, public transit, and using electric vehicles must be available to everyone in order to meet the City's climate goals. The City asks for the input of our housing authority clients in order to develop a new Electric Vehicle (EV) Roadmap. Please take a quick survey about your travel needs and ideas to help in the development of the EV Roadmap:

Here is the link for use on your laptop, computer, or phone:

https://www.opentownhall.com/portals/257/Issue_7014

The finished EV Roadmap will be available in the fall. This short survey closes on Jan. 31.

New BHA Board Commissioner

The Berkeley Housing Authority welcomed Commissioner Daryl Moore as its newest Board Member. Prior to joining the Board, Commissioner Moore served as District 2 representative on the Berkeley City Council from 2004 to 2016. He is currently employed by the Oakland Housing Authority as Sr. Management Analyst.

Who is my Housing Specialist?

Last Name begins with:

A, B, C, D, K, L and O.....Lynda DeShazier, 981-5482, ldeshazier@ci.berkeley.ca.us
E, F, G, H, I, J, M and N.....Tracy Jackson, 981-5486, tjackson@ci.berkeley.ca.us
Mc, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y and Z.....Althea Maybon, 981-5478, amaybon@ci.berkeley.ca.us
New Contracts/Portability/Mod Rehab.....Tilda Barnes, 981-5484, tbarnes@ci.berkeley.ca.us

Housing Specialist:

** If you are currently participating in th Family Self Sufficiency Program (FSS), your Housing Specialist is Celinda Aguilar-Vasquez, 981-5483, caguilar-vasquez@ci.berkeley.ca.us.