



Berkeley Housing Authority

BHA Client Newsletter

Fall 2020

Dear BHA Program Participants,

The staff of BHA continues to wish you well in these extended unsettling times. The Shelter in Place Order is still in effect, and we remain closed to the public, keeping you, your families, as well as staff, and our families safe! However, staff continues to work hard behind the scenes.

We might be tempted to let our guard down because we are over 7 months into this pandemic. That's many missed birthdays, weddings, graduations, and holidays. Now is not the time to leave the possibility of contracting the virus up to chance. Please remember: to keep yourself, and your loved ones safe, wear a mask if you leave your home, stay at least 6 feet away from others, and wash hands regularly.

The best way to be in touch with BHA staff is phone or email (see next page for contact info.). Though staff is working on a staggered work schedule, to minimize the number of people in the office each day, we do check email and voice mail regularly. Documents can still be dropped off through our front office door mail slot, or mailed: 1936 University Ave, Suite 150, Berkeley, CA 94704.

You must continue to pay your rent portion to your landlord; an eviction moratorium remains in effect in Berkeley through the end of January. If you have a decrease in income or job loss it is important to let BHA know immediately so your rent portion can be readjusted (see below).

Please remember your obligation to provide true and complete information to BHA, such as notifying your Housing Specialist when someone in your household gets a new job, loses a job, has a decrease in income, or is receiving unemployment. You must also inform your Housing Specialist before you want to add or remove someone from your assisted household, or move. Check out our website for many of our forms: https://www.cityofberkeley.info/BHA/Home/Forms_for_Owners_and_Tenants.aspx.

Annual inspections are still on hold, but we continue to conduct Special Inspections and Move in Inspections ("RTAs"). If your landlord is not making an urgently needed repair, please contact tpumphrey@cityofberkeley.info or 510-981-5490 to schedule a Special Inspection.

The BHA Board is Searching for a Tenant Board Member. There is a vacancy on the BHA Board and you are invited to apply. The Board sets the direction for the agency, including financial and programmatic strategy. The Board also votes on such important matters as the Administrative Plan, the Budget, Payment Standards, Project-based Voucher allocations, among other important actions.

All BHA commissioners are required to attend monthly BHA Board meetings, starting at 4:30 pm on the second Thursday of each month. Currently, due to the pandemic, Board meetings are conducted via Zoom. Tenant commissioners receive a stipend of \$50 for each meeting attended (not counted as income in your rent calculation). To apply, submit the following via email to caguilar-vasquez@cityofberkeley.info **no later than Nov. 10 at 12:00 noon:**

1. Your name, phone number, email address, and,
2. One to two paragraphs: (a) introducing yourself and (b) describing why you are inspired to apply for this volunteer seat, and,
3. Your current resume, if you have one available (disregard if you do not have a resume).

Depending on the number of applicants received by the deadline, interviews may be arranged for the top 3 ranked candidates. Scores will be based on complete submission of requested information by the deadline, and responses to the questions asking you to introduce yourself and to describe your inspiration for participating on the Board. See additional volunteer opportunity below!

2021 Resident Advisory Board

Annually, BHA updates our Section 8 “Administrative Plan” which guides staff on the Section 8 Program rules. As part of the process we appoint a Resident Advisory Board (RAB), which is asked to review the proposed changes and provide comment during a meeting held in **February, 2021 (likely a Zoom meeting/call)**. If you are interested and are selected (we will conduct a lottery), you will receive \$50 for your attendance at the meeting, which won’t be counted as income. To volunteer for the RAB contact us in writing by **Tues. Dec. 1, at 12:00 noon**, 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@cityofberkeley.info. With questions, please call Celinda at 510-981-5483.

Contacting BHA Staff

Staff	Position/Client Last Name Begins with:	Phone: 510-981-	Email: @cityofberkeley.info
Lynda DeShazier	Housing Specialist A, B, C, D, K, L, O	5482	ldeshazier
Tracy Jackson	Housing Specialist E, F, G, H, I, J, M, N	5486	tjackson
Althea Maybon	Housing Specialist Mc, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z	5478	amaybon
Tilda Barnes	Supervisor/New Contracts/ Ports/Mod Rehab.	5484	tbarnes
Tyra Pumphrey	Inspections Clerk	5490	tpumphrey
Celinda Aguilar-Vasquez	Exec. Assistant/FSS Coordinator	5483	caguilar-vasquez
Jesy Yturralde	Finance Manager	5488	jyturralde
Jayla Fuentesilla	Office Asst. II/Accounting	5474	bfuentesilla
Maggie Wang	Accountant	5477	ywang
Rachel Gonzales-Levine	Acting Executive Director/ Management Analyst	5485	rgonzales-levine

BHA is Moving! In mid-December, BHA’s offices will be moving to 1947 Center Street. This is a City-owned building and we are excited for the opportunity to be closer to our city partners. In the heart of downtown, along BART and AC Transit lines, the new office will require that clients make appointments in order to meet with staff (when it is safe to do so), as there is a security guard on the ground floor. Just like our current office setting, there will be a designated place for BHA paperwork submission.

★ **Remember to VOTE!!!** ★

And, with the Holiday Season soon upon us--BHA staff wishes you and yours warm, healthy and happy Holidays!