



EDISON HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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EDISON HOUSING AUTHORITY
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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Greetings Edison community,

I'd like to share a few updates on our progress and the precautions we are taking to ensure the safety and well-being of our residents during the COVID-19 pandemic. First, let us welcome the newest commissioners of the board, Dale Jones and Toni Johnson. On behalf of the board and staff, we welcome our newest commissioners and thank them for their commitment to serve the residents of the Edison Housing Authority.

Looking at last year's accomplishments, we have made tremendous strides in protecting our residents and have provided the resources to help support them during this difficult time. Our residents have been afforded COVID-19 testing, meals via our food pantry, and increased security measures at our properties. I would like to thank each and every one of our staff members and our Executive Director Deborah Hurley for all of their phenomenal work on these essential efforts throughout this crisis.

There is much in store for the new year and I look forward to safe and enriching community events. To all who read this, please continue to practice safety measures and stay well.

Sincerely,

Carlos N. Sanchez

EDISON HOUSING AUTHORITY ANNOUNCES NEW COMMISSIONERS

The Housing Authority is proud to welcome Dale Jones who was appointed to the board as a commissioner, as well as new resident commissioner Toni Johnson.

Dale Jones is a housing professional with over 25 years of experience and has a Business Administration Accounting degree from University of Technology in Kingston, Jamaica.

Mr. Jones currently serves as the assistant executive director and acting director of finance for the Housing Authority for the City of Paterson, where he is responsible for the overall operations and accounting of the agency. His professional experience spanning across public management and fiscal responsibility brings an added value to the Board of Commissioners at the Edison Housing Authority.

Toni Johnson joins the EHA Board as a resident commissioner. Toni is a certified peer recovery specialist and has a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Argosy University.

Ms. Johnson has demonstrated her commitment to the community by providing recovery education to individuals in need of treatment and support. She is a believer in developing strong relationships and implementing various levels of community based activities to strengthen families and their communities.

SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS

Putting our residents' safety first is one of our top priorities. To that end, we have hired Black Belt Security to help protect our community by patrolling the property daily. We have also installed new digital cameras at Robert Holmes Gardens and will be doing the same for our Julius Engel property. Both properties have formed Tenant Associations that have made keeping the community safe a priority. Additionally, we have developed a text messaging program to communicate updates to residents in Public Housing and Section 8.

The Edison Police Department has increased their presence and have been working with the Housing Authority closely to monitor all criminal activity. Rest assured that anything that takes place illegally on the property is always being investigated and the Housing Authority is involved with all investigations. However, we also look toward our residents to do their part and report any suspicious activity.

To report any unusual activity, contact the Edison Police Department at (732) 248-7400.

EDISON FAMILY SUCCESS STORY



Sayeeda Aara, originally from India, moved to the U.S. and got married in 2005. Unfortunately, her husband was abusive and she tried to commit suicide in 2016. She is a survivor and feels blessed to now live in the Edison community with her two children.

"I want to live here forever."

When Sayeeda worked overnight she shared how secure she felt by the additional security measures that were implemented by the Housing Authority.

"I felt an extra sense of relief when I saw a security van driving around at all hours of the day, which made my family feel safe living here."

Sayeeda has received help from EHA to obtain glasses and attended a job fair where she made her resume with the assistance of certified specialists. She was also glad that Edison Housing Authority provided COVID- 19 testing this past summer.

When asked about her relationship with the staff, she replied "Michelle is like my family. She is always available and her friendliness makes me comfortable enough to share anything with her."

Michelle Thorne is the director of public housing for the Edison Housing Authority.

COVID-19 TESTING, CENSUS, & BACK TO SCHOOL!

EHA has made a conscious effort to help ensure residents have protection from COVID-19. This past summer, masks and hand sanitizers were given out to all public housing residents. The Edison Housing Authority also partnered with Sunrise Diagnostic Laboratories to organize two COVID-19 testing sites at both Robert Holmes Gardens and Julius Engel Gardens to ensure the public safety of its residents.



In August, EHA staff organized a back to school grab and go meal for families along with a Census drive to ensure all families were counted in the United States' decennial census. Rita's also gave out their Italian ices, courtesy of Jay Elliot, Director of Edison's Department of Health & Human Services.



Be on the lookout for our next COVID-19 testing event sometime in February. Visit our website at www.edisonaha.org for the latest updates.

OCTOBER IS FIRE PREVENTION MONTH

As part of our commitment to raise safety awareness, EHA installed smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in all units for both properties.

We encourage families to practice fire safety for the protection of the entire community.

VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE

We had a great turnout on October 8th getting our residents registered to vote at Robert Holmes Gardens and Julius Engel Gardens.



EDISON HOUSING AUTHORITY RECEIVES NAHRO'S 2020 MERIT AWARD

The Edison Housing Authority was among 88 housing and community development agencies honored during the NAHRO Online: 2020 Summer Conference for its Food Program that was initiated in 2019 during the government shutdown.

NAHRO's Merit Award recognized agencies for a wide range of affordable housing and community development programs. These forward-thinking solutions to local housing issues include beautifully designed buildings, resident services, employment and work skills development programs, public-private partnerships, innovative design projects, and more.

Congratulations to the staff who made this award possible!

THANKSGIVING TURKEY GIVEAWAY

On November 20th, Edison Housing Authority families attended our annual turkey giveaway. We hope you all had a delicious Thanksgiving meal!



Picture courtesy of TapInto Edison

NEW LIFE MINISTRIES HOLIDAY GIVING

As the holidays approached and times became more challenging for families during the pandemic, New Life Ministries had the desire to show an act of kindness and compassion to families in Edison Housing communities by awarding a gift to families in our Public Housing, Section 8, and Project Based programs. EHA would like to thank Pastor Sawyer and the congregation.



BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2021

DATE	LOCATION	DATE	LOCATION
January 19, 2021	Via Zoom	July 20, 2021	TBD Virtual/In Person
February 16, 2021	Via Zoom	August 2021 - No Meeting	No Meeting
March 16, 2021	Via Zoom	September 21, 2021	TBD Virtual/In Person
April 20, 2021	TBD Virtual/In Person	October 19, 2021	TBD Virtual/In Person
May 18, 2021	TBD Virtual/In Person	November 16, 2021	TBD Virtual/In Person
June 15, 2021	TBD Virtual/In Person	December 21, 2021	TBD Virtual/In Person

For more information on how to participate, visit our website at EdisonHA.org.

Dial (646) 558-8656 (New York)
Meeting ID 975 6432 0749 Passcode: 850500

In response to the State of Emergency regarding COVID-19 Coronavirus, The Edison Housing Authority regular Board Meetings are scheduled for the dates above beginning at 6:00 pm and will take place via zoom. The public will be permitted to participate during the public portion of the meeting via zoom.

CONTACT US EDISON HOUSING AUTHORITY

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