Baltimore Regional Housing Partnership Quarterly Newsletter

"Baltimore City should not be viewed as an island reservation for use as a container for all the poor of a contiguous region..."

- Judge Marvin Garbis, U.S. District Court, Ruling in Thompson v. HUD, 2005

Message from the Executive Director

I hope this newsletter finds you well as we enter into the spring season.

BRHP has been busy kicking off 2020 with a vision to advance opportunity, equity, and justice in our community.

As you may know, we began administering the Baltimore Housing Mobility Program in 2012. Over the past 8 years, our organization has grown from one employee to 49, and we've become the third largest provider of assisted housing in the Baltimore region.

What you also know (if you attended our Thompson 25 events) is that 25 years ago a lawsuit launched the work we do today. In 1995, the ACLU of Maryland filed Thompson v. HUD on behalf of 14,000 African American public housing residents in Baltimore to fight over a century of

Could'n't make Thompson 25?
Watch it on YouTube!

Our first Medium article!
concentrated poverty and segregated public housing in the city.

This February, we commemorated the 25th anniversary of the landmark housing desegregation lawsuit by opening our doors to our families, board members, property partners, and new stakeholders for an event series that you’ll read more about in this newsletter.

As we all know, the collective work continues to ensure that everyone across the state of Maryland, regardless of socioeconomic status and source of income, has access to safe, affordable, healthy housing, and the legal protections to live a high quality of life they rightfully deserve.

We will continue to open our doors to you, our partners, to work together to expand opportunity for others.

Adria Crutchfield

Our doors are open

On Feb. 18, we held an open house at our office for the community to learn more about our services up close and personal. We mixed and mingled and even provided tours of our freshly painted office space.

Our staff enjoyed sharing details about their work with various attendees, including representatives from property management, government agencies, academia, and civil rights organizations.

Policy matters

Congratulations to our very own Bert Hash, Jr., a Black History Hero

In celebration of Black History Month, The Cordish Companies, Live! Casino & Hotel and the Maryland Washington Minority Companies Association (MWMCA) celebrated the 7th annual Black History Heroes Awards. The ceremony held at Live! Center Stage recognized ten Maryland and DC business and community leaders who have contributed to their communities and citizens in a positive way.

Congratulations to BRHP Board Member Bert J. Hash, Jr. for being recognized with the Black History Hero Award for his dedication and service to the community. We value your leadership and
The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently released a proposal that would reverse a 2015 regulation that provided jurisdictions and public housing authorities guidance and tools to identify and address harmful patterns of segregation, discriminatory practices, and disinvestment. Learn about the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) rule under attack and what you can do. (There's still time!).

Maryland delegates OK housing anti-discrimination bill...

After more than two decades of failure, Maryland lawmakers passed legislation Tuesday that makes it illegal for landlords to discriminate against tenants based on how they pay their rent, including with government housing vouchers. Light applause ...

Get smart about your tax return

Tax season is upon us. Use your tax return or Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) towards a rainy day savings fund or home repairs.

Need help preparing your taxes? The Maryland CASH Campaign provides free tax preparation to people earning less than $56,000 per year. Their certified tax preparers are IRS-trained.

#KeepHousingFair

Prior to his retirement, Bert served as president and CEO of the Municipal Employees Credit Union (MECU). Since then, he has remained a steady supporter and creator of programs and endowments focused on scholarship in business, science, and other fields.

Helpful hints

Spring forward and check your smoke alarms

Have you tested your smoke alarm yet? Now is the time to test your smoke alarms and replace them if they are 10 years old. Watch this short video from the National Fire Protection Association for tips and maintenance of your smoke alarms.
Do your part....

Shape the future for your family

Every 10 years, the census counts everyone living in the United States. It is important to count every person living in your home to make sure your community and others across the nation are accurately funded and represented for the next decade.

Count everyone in your home, from grandpa to the new baby!

To learn about the upcoming census, visit 2020census.gov.

Register to vote

We have the freedom to choose our leaders and engage on the issues we care about. Our vote gives us that power. Maryland’s primary election is April 28, 2020 and the deadline to register to vote online or by mail is April 7, 2020. Read more guidance on registering to vote on the Maryland State Board of Elections website here.

Has your address recently changed? Read this.

Do you know where your local polling station is? Read this.

Coronavirus: Everyone has a role to play to reduce the spread

While there is currently no vaccine for the coronavirus, the community can take measures to reduce the spread. Everyone has a role to play in responding to this public health threat.
About the Baltimore Regional Housing Partnership

The Baltimore Regional Housing Partnership (BRHP) helps families with low incomes, who have historically been excluded from housing in neighborhoods of their choice, access and transition successfully to safe, healthy, and economically vibrant communities. Since becoming the formal administrator of the Baltimore Housing Mobility Program, which couples Housing Choice Voucher administration with counseling supports, BRHP has helped over 5,000 families with young children improve their quality of life as they search for new homes.