



Making Affordable Housing Happen in Long Beach



Award-winning Olive Villas offers low- to market-rate townhomes, close to the Metro Blue Line. Units are still available. For more information, contact the Olive Villas Sales Team at (213) 840-6687.



Pacific City Lights, a 42-unit rental development was recently highlighted in the local press for providing much needed new, affordable rental housing.

In line with the general housing trend in Los Angeles County, the City of Long Beach faces a serious housing challenge. Increasing home prices and rents make it difficult for many households to afford decent homes. Many people that earn moderate incomes, such as teachers, nurses, police officers, and firefighters, have had to move elsewhere because they could not afford housing within the city in which they work.

The City of Long Beach has two bureaus within its Department of Community Development that are committed to providing housing opportunities for very low to moderate-income households. They are the Housing Authority Bureau and Housing Services Bureau. The Housing Authority has a budget of \$65 million this year and provides housing vouchers (commonly known as Section 8 certificates) to about 6,250 households. Almost half of these vouchers are held by senior citizen and disabled households. The Housing Services Bureau has a multi-year budget of about \$125 million and has several projects in various stages of development, which would generate approximately 850 new or rehabilitated affordable housing units. This Bureau provides staff support to The Long Beach Housing Development Company (LBHDC).

The LBHDC is a non-profit created by the City, whose main mission is to provide and preserve housing that is affordable to the very low, low and moderate-income residents of Long Beach. The LBHDC uses redevelopment housing set-aside funds and HOME funds to support its projects and programs. In addition, it has access to bond funds and applies for outside grants. It offers financial assistance to affordable housing developers, rehabilitation loans to property owners, and down payment assistance to first-time homebuyers.

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*Affordable
Housing
Week 2007
July 2-7, 2007*

CITY COUNCIL PROCLAMATION

July 3, 2007

A City Council proclamation declared July 2-7, 2007 as Long Beach Affordable Housing Week. Coordinated by the LBHDC, Vice-Chair Pat Brown accepted the proclamation, acknowledging the week's aim to bring the need for affordable housing to the forefront in Long Beach.



LBHDC Vice-Chair Pat Brown with Vice-Mayor Bonnie Lowenthal.

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AFFORDABLE HOUSING TOUR

July 5, 2007

The Affordable Housing Tour showcased new, rehabilitated, and upcoming housing sites. Over 35 local officials, housing developers, city staff, and media were in attendance. The tour included walking tours of the Olive Villas townhome development and Pacific City Lights. It concluded with lunch with two families now residing at Pacific City Lights.





GRAND RE-OPENING & NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTY

July 7, 2007

Over 200 community members and city and local housing officials culminated the week on Saturday, July 7th, enjoying food, entertainment, and information. Saturday's festivities included: a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the Grand Re-Opening of Linden Gardens, the newest addition of 24 rehabilitated rental units; and a Neighborhood Block Party that included Parks and Recreation's Mobile Park and Skate Park and representatives from the Homeland Cultural Center, Health and Human Services, Neighborhood Services, and Workforce Development departments.



(l. to r.) Councilmember Val Lerch, Tom Gibson (Pres., Walton Construction), Jim Shaner (Pres., DECRO LP), LBHDC Chair Richard Green, and Community Development Director Pat West.



A Monumental Success Story

Hired under Section 3 as construction workers for

Walton Construction, Abraham Zumbado and Jaiden Do overcame personal hardships to form their own company, *Monumental Images*. Section 3 was designed to provide quality jobs for local low-income residents and helped these two young men achieve unexpected success. Read more on their "Monumental" success in the fall issue of the *Solutions for Living* newsletter.



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The Long Beach Housing Development Company
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 Long Beach, CA 90802
www.lbhdc.org



Did You Know...

- According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), "affordable housing" means a household pays no more than 30% of its total income towards housing.
- Only 41% of the City's households are homeowners.
- Fifty-six percent (56%) of Long Beach households earn less than \$50,000/year.
- Fifty-three percent (53%) of renters spend more than 30% of their monthly income towards housing (6th highest in the nation) and thirty-two percent (32%) of homeowners spend more than 30% of their monthly income towards housing.
- Over 10,000 households live in severely overcrowded conditions.
- Eighty-six (86%) of the existing housing stock is more than 25 years old.

LBHDC EVENTS CALENDAR

July 2007

7/2-7/7 2007 Affordable Housing Week
 3rd: City Council Proclamation
 5th: Affordable Housing Tour
 7th: Grand Re-Opening of Linden Gardens; Neighborhood Block Party on Linden Avenue

7/28 First-Time Homebuyers Seminar
 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
 Bixby Park
 130 Cherry Avenue,
 Long Beach

August 2007

8/15 LBHDC Board Meeting
 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
 City Hall, 3rd Floor
 Large Conference Room

8/23 LBHDC Programs Committee Meeting
 9:00- 10:30 a.m.
 City Hall, 2nd Floor
 Conference Room

8/25 First Time Homebuyers Seminar
 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
 Silverado Park
 1545 W. 31st Street,
 Long Beach

September 2007

9/19 LBHDC Board Meeting
 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
 City Hall, 3rd Floor
 Large Conference Room

9/29 First Time Homebuyers Seminar
 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
 Silverado Park
 1545 W. 31st Street,
 Long Beach

Please confirm meetings by calling (562) 570-6949.

'Solutions for Living'

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This newsletter is available in an alternate format. Contact Patricia Parga at (562) 570-6359 for additional information.