

COPY

June 20, 2019

Housing Authority Board of Commissioners
Clackamas County

Members of the Board:

Housing Authority's role in Hillside Manor public housing fire impacts and recovery

Purpose/Outcome	To recognize County staff and community partners who contributed to the safety and well-being of the residents and resiliency of the public housing property in Milwaukie.
Fiscal Impact	N/A
Funding Source	N/A
Duration	February 6, 2019
Previous Action	None
Counsel Review	N/A
Strategic Plan Alliance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Build public trust through good government 2. Ensure safe, healthy and secure communities
Contact Person	Jill Smith, HACC Executive Director (503) 742-5336

BACKGROUND:

The Housing Authority of Clackamas County (HACC), a Division of the Health, Housing and Human Services Department requests recognition for the County staff and community partners who contributed to the safety and well-being of the residents and resiliency of the Public Housing property in Milwaukie.

On February 6th at approximately 9:30 a.m., a fire alarm alerted Clackamas County Fire District #1 to a fire that started on the third floor of the Housing Authority's nine-story Hillside Manor public housing apartment building in Milwaukie. The sprinkler system immediately flooded the 3rd floor and the west wing of the 2nd floor, with firefighters arriving within minutes.

Housing Authority staff quickly mobilized to push the water from the building, while the fire crew extinguished the fire and went door-to-door throughout the entire building to ensure everyone's safety.

Additional help came from a group of Hillside Manor residents who had established a safety team that quickly put on their yellow safety jackets to assist staff with escorting their fellow residents to a nearby community building. Staff provided snacks and refreshments, plus helped all 18 affected residents gather their belongings. Staff then contacted the smoke and fire damage restoration company to stabilize the area.

Chuck Robbins called and reserved blocks of rooms at two hotels for the displaced residents. Housing Authority managers, maintenance, and all available staff came to help residents gather their belongings and arrange for Clackamas County Social Services staff to provide a van for transporting those residents to hotels. Transportation was also available for the residents who were able to stay with relatives. This was all accomplished by 5:30 p.m. on the same day.

As residents arrived to the hotel, staff provided them with gift cards so they could purchase food, while Clackamas County's Behavioral Health Division had Trauma Intervention Portland offer psychological first aid to those impacted. Behavioral Health also had its Crisis Team reach out to many tenants who were emotionally distressed and offered Peer Support Specialists if needed.

Thankfully, none of our residents were injured, although one pet's life was unfortunately lost to the fire. The restoration company was able to get the units dried out and repaired quickly so that displaced

residents could return within a week to 10 days.

RECOMMENDATION

The Housing Authority of Clackamas County wishes to honor our dedicated staff and the resilient public housing community whose quick response and teamwork helped to ensure the health, safety and well-being of our residents affected by the recent fire at Hillside Manor in Milwaukie.

I would like to recognize Housing Authority staff for their assistance during the fire:

- Allison Coe – Hillside Property Manager
- Hillary Merritt – Hillside Occupancy Specialist
- Thomas Williams – Hillside Maintenance Coordinator
- Gene Shein – Hillside Maintenance Specialist
- Jack Bair – Hillside Maintenance Assistant
- Don Miller – Clackamas Heights Maintenance Coordinator
- Preston Ciupryk – Clackamas Heights Maintenance Specialist
- Nick Johnson - Clackamas Heights Maintenance Specialist
- Sonja Souder – Clackamas Heights Property Manager
- Jemila Hart – Human Services Coordinator
- Amy Brinkley – Resident Services Assistant
- Roy Wheeler – Resident Services Intern
- Chuck Robbins – Executive Director
- Jill Smith – Deputy Director H3S
- Rich Malloy – Asset Manager

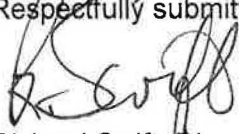
Special thanks to those who serve on the Hillside Manor Safety Team:

- Ann Leenstra
- Donna Ryan
- Ali Zumwalt
- Collin Kendrick
- Nellie Allbee
- Cathy Haase
- Jesse Lewis
- Alan Ronnfeldt
- Marge Lockhart
- Julie Leek
- Glenda Lyle

Additional thanks to:

- Clackamas County's Social Services and Behavioral Health Divisions
- The Red Cross
- Taxi services
- Contractors
- And, our local firefighters

Respectfully submitted,



Richard Swift, Director
Health, Housing, and Human Services