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CHA Hosts Premier Educational Event for Property Owners

1,000 Managers and Property Owners expected at Navy Pier

WHAT: 4th Annual CHA Owner Symposium.

WHERE: Navy Pier, 600 East Grand Avenue (Lakeview Terrace and Grand Ballroom).

**WHEN: 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 1, 2011.
(7:30 a.m. registration)**

CHICAGO: George Vlasis, who has been renting to HCV Program Participants for 10 years now, hasn't found that doing so is a risky venture. He said "Section 8" clients do indeed maintain their properties.

The responsibility, he said, is on the Owners to do their due diligence and cover their bases.

"Owners have to qualify the HCV Program Participants like they would anyone else," said Vlasis, owner and broker of George Vlasis Realtors. "With the potential renter's signed permission, I have an agency run a background check and credit report. With their permission, I do a home visitation to see how they are maintaining their current residence. I spend time talking to the people to get a sense of who they are and how well we will work together. I want them to maintain the property as if they owned it and, in return, I immediately address any repair issues. If the owner treats the tenants fairly and with respect, they will have a long-term tenant, a friendly relationship and a well-maintained property."

Covering Owner bases and building and maintaining relationships will be the focus of the **CHA Owner Symposium, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 1, 2011, at Navy Pier, 600 East Grand Avenue.** More than 1,000 Property Owners, Managers and Real Estate investors are expected to convene so that they may gain a clear understanding of property management from the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) and other distinguished guests.

This year's event, CHA's fourth, will feature recognized housing industry experts, including the Honorable Dorothy Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, HUD's John Meade and Dale A. Darrow, property management specialists Carl Pettigrew and Taft West, tax professional Andrea A. Raila, mold consultant Rachel Adams, and many others who will lead 12 different educational sessions on evictions, fair housing, lead-based paint, inspections, property

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renovations and more.

“By providing educational opportunities for Property Owners, Managers and Real Estate Investors, we are supporting the development of better relationships between Owners and tenants, fostering better community involvement and ultimately building better neighborhoods throughout the city of Chicago,” said Carlos Ponce, CHA’s interim CEO.

In addition, over 30 local and national organizations such as the Community Investment Corporation (CIC), Chicagoland Apartment Association (CAA), Lowe’s Commercial Services, ista North America (a provider of Utility Management Services), Socialserve.com, and ShowMojo (an online tool to help Owners schedule showings) will be on hand showcasing new and exciting solutions to help attendees increase the value of their property and grow their business.

Vlasis said the Owner Symposium could be a helpful tool for area Owners who are either currently renting to HCV Program Participants or who are interested in doing so.

“It’s good to have someone to talk to and do address specific questions,” he said. “I think the people that will be there will have a common interest in knowing how to best work with the HCV Program. CHA has set guidelines that must be adhered to. Owners need to know and understand these guidelines in order to work with CHA, and that is why they should attend the Owner Symposium.”

For more information, visit www.CHAOwnerSymposium.org.

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About the Chicago Housing Authority Housing Choice Voucher Program

The Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program helps low-income households choose and pay for quality housing in the private market. With funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the HCV Program pays a portion of a family’s rent each month to give them access to the full range of housing available in Chicago’s diverse neighborhoods. The HCV Program helps families realize their potential and cultivate their personal, economic and social skills to support the transition from subsidized to non-subsidized housing. For more information, visit www.thecha.org/hcv.