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CHA Lowers Age Limit for Select Senior Buildings *‘Reduced Age’ Senior Buildings Welcome Applicants Age 55 or Older*

CHICAGO (Oct. 8, 2010) – Responding to the housing needs of city’s aging population, the Chicago Housing Authority has enacted a new policy that will make quality one-bedroom and studios available to residents age 55 and older.

The 2010 Senior Designated Housing Plan (SDHP) lowers CHA’s age requirement from 62 to 55 in its newly designated ‘Reduced Age’ Senior Buildings. These Reduced Age buildings are selected based on occupancy levels and are updated quarterly by CHA. Applicants age 55 and older can apply to the following Reduced Age Senior Buildings today:

- Albany Terrace Apartments (3030 W. 21st Place)
- Irene McCoy Gaines Apartments (3700 W. Congress Parkway)
- Major Lawrence Apartments (655 W. 65th Street)
- Minnie Riperton Apartments (4250 S. Princeton Avenue)
- Vivian Carter Apartments (6401 S. Yale Street)

Additionally, CHA has amended its policy to accept applications from residents who need an accessible unit and are at least 55-years-old at any of its senior buildings – regardless of whether it is a Reduced Age building or not.

“Through this revised policy, CHA is expanding opportunities for Chicago’s disabled and near elderly citizens. We hope that more people will take advantage of the quality, affordable housing opportunities that CHA offers,” said Lewis Jordan, CEO of CHA.

Partners and advocates such as Access Living, a service and advocacy organization that empowers people with disabilities to live independently, welcome this change to CHA policy.

“Every month, Access Living takes hundreds of calls from people looking for affordable and accessible housing,” said Marca Bristo, executive director of Access Living. “We applaud CHA for implementing a new policy that responds to this unmet demand.”

The Authority decided to amend the SDHP to serve the needs of a growing population in the city. Based on figures between 2007 and 2009, the population of Chicago’s residents of retirement age increased by only three percent, while the population of near elderly residents increased by 12 percent over the same period.

All senior units have been rehabilitated under CHA’s sweeping Plan for Transformation, which calls for the renovation of nearly 9,400 units of senior housing. Currently, the Authority has completed 98 percent of those rehabs, which include updated kitchens and bathrooms, as well as new floors and heating/cooling systems.

For each applicant, rent is no more than 30 percent of the adjusted gross income. For more information, or to apply to a senior property, visit www.thecha.org/seniors.

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