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**Housing Authority of  
the City of Bridgeport**

# NEWS ADVISORY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **New Housing Opportunities for People with Disabilities**

Bridgeport - The Bridgeport Housing Authority (BHA) is unveiling state of the art homes for its new applicants and residents living with disabilities. BHA is urging those people qualified to apply for one of these newly renovated homes. The BHA announced its plan to retrofit their facilities to increase the quality of life for the disabled and is currently accepting applicants.

Creating 125 disability compliant units will respond to a growing need for more accommodations for those with any type of disability. The Authority has notified all residents of this endeavor and is encouraging that any resident with special needs come forward to be placed in either a retrofitted or completely rebuilt unit. The BHA has commissioned a committee made up of residents, employees, and disability rights activists to ensure that those people with disabilities be placed in the most accommodating units possible. This committee is being headed by the Authority's Equal Opportunity Compliance Officer, Mr. James Wood, who will take on the role of Disability Rights Coordinator. Anyone interested in applying for one of these homes should contact Mr. Wood as soon as possible at 203-337-8978

The BHA has developed a list of all the participating agencies that will assist the housing authority in spreading the word of this effort and to provide fair accommodations to fit the needs of disabled applicants. Some of these partners include the Disability Resource Center and The Department of Health and Mental Services. The message is simple The BHA says "If you are a person with a mobility or sense oriented disability you may be entitled to an apartment enhancement or a new apartment to increase the quality of your life." One resident who has recently relocated is Ana Ramos who says that "she loves her new surroundings things are now much cleaner, quieter, the security is better and everything is easy to access."

"All the committee members and I share the same goal," says Mr. Wood at the last committee meeting, "and that is to see that the BHA provides qualitative enriched affordable housing to all of its residents including the disabled. We are not a committee that sits around and talks about the issues in front of us. Our job is to get this done. We need to get every single qualified applicant into a reasonable home."

Many changes will be made to the units being retrofitted; everything from custom plumbing to altered kitchen cabinets, even electrical outlets will be placed in specific locations. In all this effort is expected to take 2 years before all 125 units are finished, however, many have already been completed and are being utilized much to the delight of some of the first applicants taking advantage of this program