

Opportunity Home

By Frank Valdez

I have been a tenant of the public housing authority since November of 2013. In that time I have witnessed both good and bad. Unfortunately for the tenants it has been mostly bad. Myself and others are busy organizing a Tenant Union to address the issues that are imposed on us by the management of Opportunity Home. I am sending a brief list of issues that need to be resolved:

- 1) Federal law that should be enforced by HUD is seldom enforced.
- 2) Since January four persons have been murdered on public housing properties. Rapes and assaults are common as well. **HUD** requires housing authorities to provide tenants with a sanitary and safe living environment. Obviously this isn't occurring.
- 3) Racial activity is tolerated by **OHSA** management. Where I live there is a card carrying member of the *Ku Klux Klan* who assaulted his ex-girlfriend without any consequences. Black and Brown tenants have been evicted for lesser offenses! This guy constantly uses the N word in public without any response from housing authority management.

At Lewis Chatham on the Southside, Black and White tenants are subjected to harassment, intimidation and violence by Chicano tenants. Again management does nothing to stop this!

We have discussed these issues with top housing authority officials and they have responded by telling us that we are exaggerating and they choose to ignore our concerns. We have reported our concerns to City, County, State and Federal authorities only to be ignored. This is another issue that needs to be addressed.

We are convinced that **Opportunity Home's** biggest weakness is bad publicity. They become very upset when their tenants expose the problems. This letter is an effort to make our concerns known to the San Antonio community.

Thank you,

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EDITOR'S NOTE: The **San Antonio Housing Authority** is now **Opportunity Home San Antonio**. Their mission is to "improve the lives of our residents by providing quality affordable housing and building sustainable, thriving communities." They state that "Our work in the community remains the same. We will still offer the same services but with an emphasis on compassion, equity and excellence." To read more on this city agency check: <https://homesa.org/> A letter from a tenant follows bringing up concerns that continue following the **SAHA** name change.